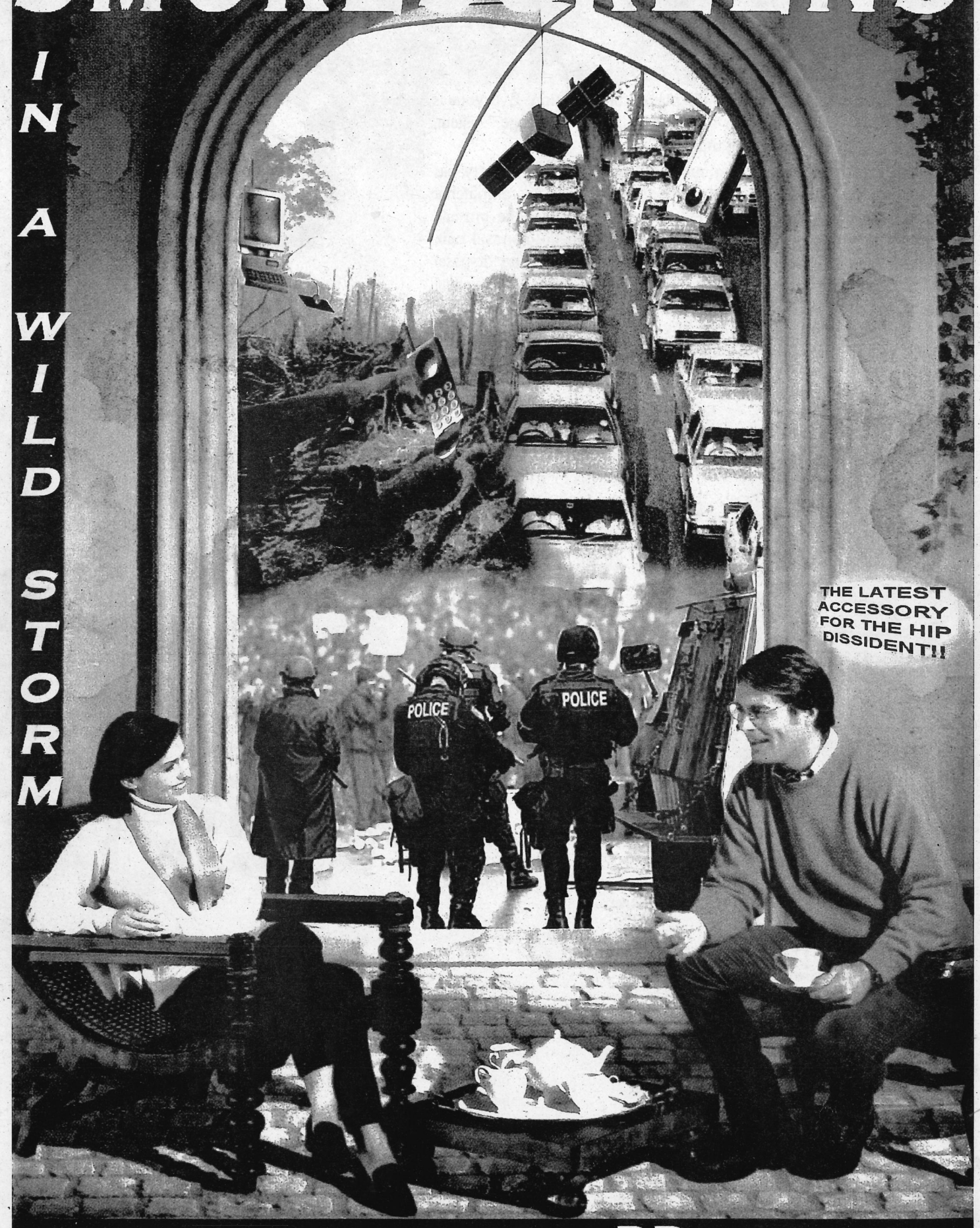
SMOKESCREENS

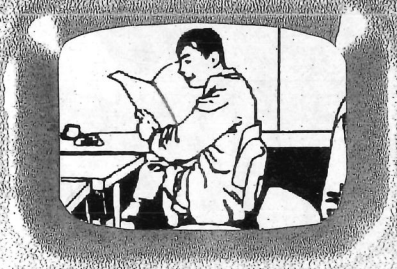
IN A WILD STORM



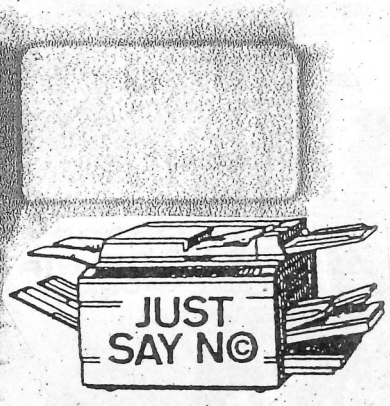
ECHELON SPY NETWORK - PROPAGANDA
CULTURE TORTURE - THE CONSUMER CULT
WORK/BOREDOM AND THE DESIRE FOR LIFE

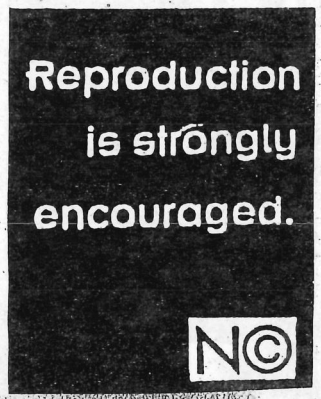
A mental disease has swept the planet: banalization. Everyone is hypnotized by production and conveniences—sewage system, elevator, bathroom, washing machine.

This state of affairs, arising out of a struggle against poverty, has overshot its ultimate goal—the liberation of man from material cares—and become an obsessive image hanging over the present. Presented with the alternative of love or a garbage disposal unit, young people of all countries have chosen the garbage disposal unit. It has become essential to bring about a complete spiritual transformation by bringing to light forgotten desires and by creating entirely new ones. And by carrying out an *intensive propaganda* in favor of these desires.

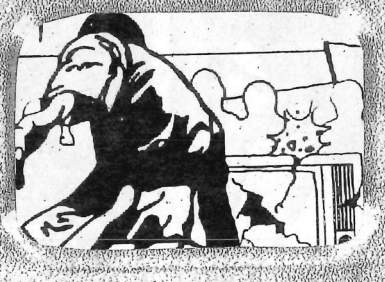


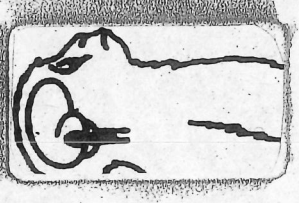
'Consume less' may become the final frontier of the consumer-rebel, the consumer who does not merely seek living space within the present system or use the products of the system to express disaffection and protest, but decides that 'enough is enough', anything less than a frontal assault on the core assumption of consumerism is inadequate. Such an assault would, of course, transcend the limits of rebellion and would amount to a major moral and political challenge to capitalism





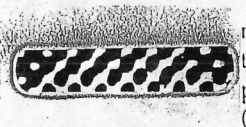
The ever increasing control of ideas in the interests of consumerism and corporate rule confines public debate within sharp boundaries. The media, whose profits are based on their ability to disseminate advertising, has an important stake in maintaining and expanding consumer society, and protecting corporate rule from deep criticism.

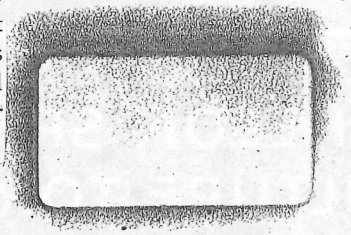




In the East poets are sometimes thrown in prison—a sort of compliment, since it suggests the author has done something at least as real as theft or rape or revolution. Here poets are allowed to publish anything at all—a sort of punishment in effect, prison without walls, without echoes, without palpable existence—shadow-realm of print, or of abstract thought—world without risk or *eros*.

If rulers refuse to consider poems as crimes, then someone must commit crimes that serve the function of poetry, or texts that possess the resonance of terrorism. At any cost re-connect poetry to the body. Not crimes against bodies, but against Ideas (& Ideas-in-things) which are deadly & suffocating. Not stupid libertinage but exemplary crimes, aesthetic crimes, crimes for love.





Only those who attempt the impossible will achieve the absurd

Finally it seems I am coming to the end of this zine. The muse of perfectionism caught me but I have finally overcome it, not by creating something perfect, but by being satisfied that I will actually get this zine out. Perfection is a great motivator and a terrible time waster, it can be a carrot on a stick and can suck the spontaneity out of you and it can also help you create a bunch o' funky stuff. I realised I can't talk about the whole world in 28 pages, especially if I want people to listen. So here it is *Smokescreens in a Wild Storm,* formerly known as *No Recall To Reality.*

If you've been thinking about doing a zine then do it, don't be put off by hoity toity crap like this one, zines are excellent antidotes to the media monopolies. Australia has one of the highest concentrations of media ownership in the western world. Rupert Murdoch owns more than 2/3 of our daily newspapers (and stacks of other stuff) and Kerry Packer more than 1/3 of the top selling magazines, (+lots more stuff) all dedicated to pushing consumerism and the work machine. What we need is MASSES of media made by everybody, not mass media owned and controlled by a few.

Zines are a welcome relief because they provide an opportunity for media participation which is as easy as cut and pasting a bunch of things and sticking them in the photocopier. They also provide us with a means to create our own culture, to participate in the making of our own world, instead of having it piped into our homes by the corporate culture factories. In the end the point should be to bring us together face to face, to create an escape plan from a world than seems to divide us at every instant. Being isolated together is not the same thing.

I'd like to do another version of this zine but can't, and don't want, to do it on my own. Send me stuff.

A couple of other brief notes; make sure you're in Melbourne on September 11 (S11) to shutdown the World Economic Forum. (more details later in zine). People have been preparing since February so it should be huge. There are plenty of other events along the way like MayDay (may1) and more, so look out for stuff and get involved. People are encouraged to organise their own actions/events or tap into what big groups are doing. After protestors shutdown the World Trade Organisation in Seattle last Nov/Dec a new mood has struck a lot of people.

This zine is not designed to be an object of contemplation and display. I made it as a tool. I can't control how it's used (and I don't want to) but badges and posturing are useless in the long run, they change nothing. We have moved away from being, to having, to appearing.

I apologise for the over the top language in the zine, it's a case of self-indulgence (AKA wankerdom) but masturbation can be fun and at the same time if we want to get out of this hole we're in we're going to have to do some mental gymnastics. If we also can't have fun and be creative doing it then we'll just dig another dull hole for ourselves, we cannot separate creativity and change.

"The new artist protests, he no longer paints; he creates directly... life and art make One" Tristan Tzara, Dada manifesto.

Lots of thanks to:

Grubbie for all his help and putting up with my pestering, Lachlan & Kate, Phil in Adelaide for Quit Your Job, Sam for the Echelon article, Emile for Top Tips for Culture Torture & printing, Keiren, Dino, Alex, Kate, Vik for bein' cool, and anyone else that helped me out or gave feed back.

Sources, Resources and further infotainment;

Am I totally Normal too zine, Fairness and Acuracy in Reporting (FAIR), the reproduction of daily life - freddy pearlman, The Temporary Autonomous Zone - Hakim Bey, Immediatism - Hakim Bey at <www.hermetic.com/bey>, copyrant zine, the age, the economist, The Biotic Baking Brigade, the onion www.theonion.com, www.cleansurface.org, Karen Eliot, www.indymedia.org, Next 5 Minutes workbook, Pyrates zine, shit for dick heads zine, The Revolution of Everyday Life - Raoul Vaneigem, The Society of the Spectacle - Guy Debord, >>>>>>>>>

Situationist Archive www.nothingness.org, The Abolition of Work - Bob Black, www.xchange.anarki.net, Post-Scarcity Anarchism - Murray Bookchin, MEDIA ONFO - Manufacturing Consent - N.Chomsky & E.S.Herman, The Media Monopoly - Ben Bagdikian, Access News - 8pm Mon night, CH31 in Melbourne, Undercurrents - www.undercurrents.org

ACTION ACTION

People are needed everywhere.There are currently blockades in East Gippland old growth forest, the Otways forest, Beverley and Roxby Downs Uranium Mines in SA - fighting along with traditional owners of the land, contact friends of da earth (03) 9419 8700. World Ecomomic Forum Shut Down in Sept ph 9419 8700 or www.s11.org, help organise, lots more check out www.lockon.org

SMOKESCREENS IN A WILD STORM CAN BE CONTACTED AT PO BOX 4020 MELBOURNE UNIVERSITY PARKVILLE 3052 VIC AUSTRALIA or phuc.it.up@disinfo.net

SUBVERT®

Little boy lost finds mum

A FOUR-year-old boy who became lost on a pre-dawn bike ride was reunited with his family in Narre Warren today.

Police found the boy wearing mustard pyjamas and teddy-bear slippers, riding an orange bicycle about 5.45am.

Unable to explain to police where he lived, he was driven around until he hit familiar territory.

A sister and his mother, who returned from work after hearing a radio story about a little boy lost, met him at the door.

Sgt Ken Rich, from Narre Warren police, said officers were surprised to find the youngster riding his bike so early in the day.

"We haven't had something like this for quite a while, this is quite an unusual occurrence," he said.

FRAUD SQUAD

A "No Junk Mail" sign on my mailbox did not work. In frustration I added a sign informing that any non-solicited mail placed into my mailbox would attract a $75 processing fee. This fee covers my time perusing, considering and responsibly disposing of the junk mail.

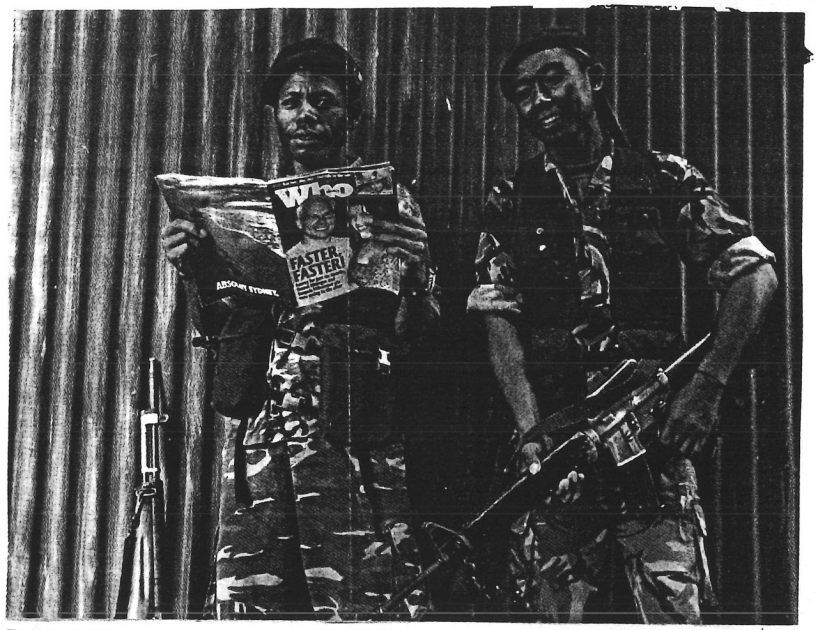
Results so far: from the eight invoices I have sent, three groups have paid the $75 processing fee. One check arrived from a get-rich-quick scheme, one from a "free slide night" religious group, and another from the ruling conservative party for a letter titled "a personal message from John Howard" (Australia's current prime minister). I also received one abusive phone call from an invoice recipient.

When I received the first check I immediately rang the Fraud Squad to turn myself in. They advised that my actions break no laws. My next step will be reminder notices. If payment is not received, I will ask senders to come and pick up their junk mail; failing this I will keep it and send an invoice for holding it on file.

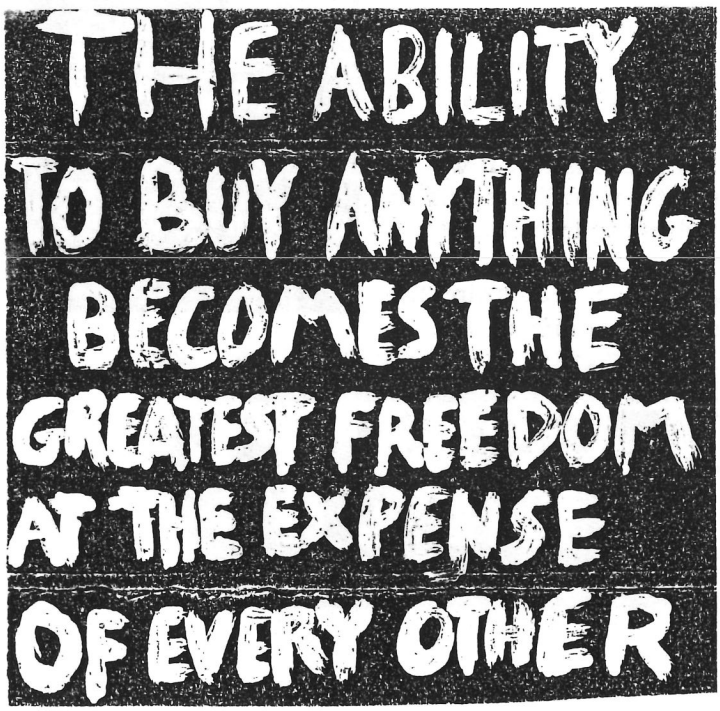
I don't believe self-regulation of mail advertisers will work and encourage everyone to adopt the above practices.

NICHOLAS FERRANTE
KIRRAWEE, AUSTRALIA

THE NEW WEAPONS OF WAR



LOADING GUNS WITH MAGAZINES OF A DIFFERENT KIND



Kylie Changes ~~Her Tune~~

There has been global shock around Kylie Minogue's dramatic move to give up her entertainment career in favor of radical politics.

Richard Wilkins met her out in the forest to discover the ideas and reasons why Kylie's gone feral.

Kylie "locks-on" to a bulldozer at a recent protest

Richard - You've been getting a lot of attention lately due to your uncanny decision to give up your entertainment career in an effort to focus on radical politics, particularly radical environmentalism. Why the change?

Kylie - To begin with the media focus is just another spectacle. They're always in need of a new story, although they're never really new, it's just the same crap packaged over and over again to keep us distracted from what's really going on. Also, I think this constant focussing on stars is to the detriment of the wider radical movement as it undervalues the hardwork many people have been doing for years. People have to learn to rely on themselves and on each other not just follow what the latest leader or celebrity says, that's part of the problem now. I used to be one of those celebrities that people would listen too even when I has no idea what I was talking about. I think we have to be really careful about seeing what the media and rich people have to say as being more valid than our own direct experience. That's pretty difficult when social hierarchies have been bred into us from day one. The whole star system has to be transcended if we are ever to become autonomous.

R - What was the initial reason behind the move?

K - I guess I came to the realisation that the music and culture industry was really manipulative. It was just about producing throwaway ear candy and making dollars. People like you are essentially just advertisers in a different guise, well trained monkeys pushing pop music prozac to passify discontented youth. I mean, even rebellion just gets turned into another commodity to be consumed, you buy something to show you're rebelling when really you're just reinforcing that same system that got you so angry in the first place. I began to see the entertainment industry as part of the larger problem of consumer capitalism; the boredom of work, the war, the famine, the destruction, the pollution, the constant extraction of resources from the environment to produce a bunch of dumb gadgets. I mean most of these products are designed to break down, be thrown away or go out of fashion. A capitalist growth economy constantly needs people to buy more and more, so you can never be satisfied. You're not supposed to be, otherwise the economy would collapse.

R - And all this upset you?

K - Hell yeah! What a waste of time! All that work for things that aren't even made to last. The world seems like it's gone crazy.

R - It sounds like you're taking a pretty drab view of life. Don't you find it all a bit depressing? Didn't you like the parties?

K - They're all pretentious wankers, capitalist scum, manipulators and airheads. The world would be alot better if they put some of their talents into something useful. Sure that's depressing but I've begun to see the creative potential of this society. Contemplating the amazing possibilities of reducing work to a minimum and realising the creative energy that would be unleashed is a really inspiring prospect. I think by reducing our need for stuff, by making that stuff so it actually lasts and by having collective control of our resources we could reduce work to a day or so a week, probably less, then we would all have time for the things we really wanted to do. Just working co-operatively, instead of in competition all the time could free years of time and enable people to really participate in their daily lives rather than just taking orders.

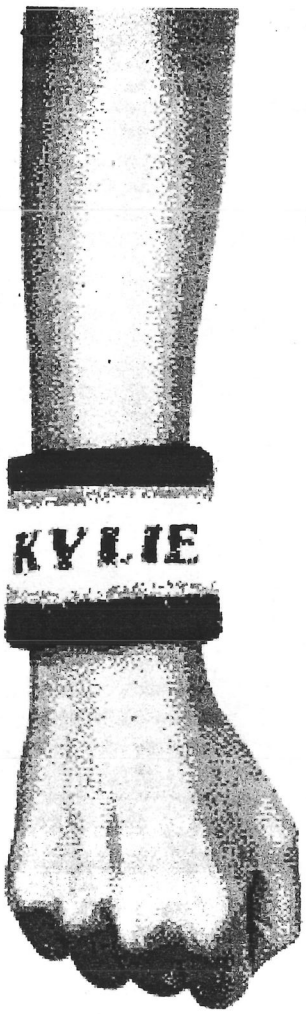
I think that lack of participation and competition can be seen a lot in the chart system. It's all about who's selling the most records, who's got this, who's got that. Most of the crap that comes out of critics arses is mostly from press releases or back hand deals with the record companies, which you'd probably know alot about. Through the military-industrial-entertainment complex trends are planned out months ahead. A lot of consumer psychology goes into the way songs are produced and packaged, even for the supposedly genuine indie bands, it's basically a total con, that's why I got out. I also saw a lot of collective and individual creative power in doing things just because - zines, music, food - just for the self-empowerment and their participatory nature. Becoming an actor in everyday life instead of a spectator is a massively important move. It's so much more satisfying than watching the contrived Spectacle that lacks any feeling of immediacy or genuiness.

R - Don't you think it's all just a bit utopian? I mean some of those parties were great. Why bother? I'm happy.

K- I'm not here for you dipshit and I ain't no martyr either. The best way to predict the future is to invent it yourself. I think that if you resign yourself to the way things are then nothing will change, if you leave open the possibilities, and work towards them, then things are far more likely to happen. It's all part of getting over the passivity that's been bred into us, the 'oh well,' 'that's the way the cookie crumbles' kinda shit.

R - So the music career is over then?

K - In the commercial sense, yeah. The book is probably the last thing. I saw alot of radical groups out there in need of money so the idea essentially came out of that. Sure it's exploitation but I had total control and the money went to good places. I might continue to make music on a low key level, just when I need some cash to get by. I guess that's the thing, you can't totally trandscend these conditions all on your own, you've still got to live and if you can do that and have control over what you produce then all the better, but it comes with the knowledge that this is a transitional stage, that at the same time I'm working towards creating a more collective and participatory society where I don't have to sell myself to get by. Part of that transitoryness is rejecting the roles that often come with opposing the system. I think it's really easy to slip into the rebellious roles drawn out for us 'hippy' 'feral' 'punk' 'vegetarian' etc which can be viewed as being just reactionary because they fail to build upon and trandscend the way the



Kylie - chanelled all the money made from her book into radical organisations.

media and society view us. It objectifies us, as it does other people, and means we can be easily dismissed because people know exactly what is about to come out of our mouths, and we think we know what is about to come out of theirs. Also, if we build our personalities too much around the things we hate then those things still control us and we become too attached to this system and unprepared and inflexible for the time when things change.

R - Sounds like you've lost your marbles. Don't you think all this philosophising just ends up excluding a lot of people?

K - I think part of trying to change things is to start to use your mind a lot more, to break out of conventional patterns of thinking. It also depends if you're doing it to hold a power over people through your knowledge or are seeking to share that knowledge with people as a way to empower everyone. I think it's part of your responsibility to pass knowledge on, not to keep it to yourself to maintain a more powerful position, that way everybody becomes stronger and better skilled. The other part is beginning to give people a greater sense of ownership in things, which means transcending the hero factor, or ego-warrior, to make everyone a participant, as a means to breaking down the alienation that comes from being a spectator. In a society that deliberately make things so they break down and is basically bulimic and massively neurotic, we not only have the time to spend on making things more participatory it's basically becoming a nessecity if we're going to clear up all the mess we've made and not just replicate or take over the existing structures.

T- Could you expand on the..

K- No, No. Enough. Theory only works in action, to act upon our knowledge is all that is left. The revolution must turn us on or there will be no revolution.

TOP TIPS FOR CULTURE TORTURE

A rough guide to the lo-tech compiled by Luther Blissett and Monty Cantsin

Graffiti & Posters

#) choose walls that will not be cleaned by the owner the next morning - saves your time and the owners.

#)target audience; if you're after inner city arty types you can do anything and stick it up anywhere. If you are after the rest, your work needs to be able to be read in 3-5 seconds, people will not stop walking to look at ART ON THE WALL. If your message can't be reduced to a 3 second soundbite place your art up in spaces that people are stuck - like toilets, tram stops, phone booths ect.

#) take identification documents with you: if you're stupid enough to get caught, you will be asked for i.d. If you say 'it is at home', you will be asked to go home and get it - do you want the police in your home? The less dramatic angle is to leave it at home, some police will be happy enough to take your name and address and leave it at that for minor offences - depends on how bored they are - the choice is yours.

#) try to 'blend in' when tagging - consider wearing designer clothes - the victorian police have a history of bashing poor people - cops find it hard to bash people in suits.

#) go for repeatation of the same message - to get inside someone elses head takes time, a one off poster will not get in.

$) A contact phone, email, website, PO Box, can be helpful but be careful.

#) show your work to people from different age groups and ask for feedback.

#)Go back to your poster/tag the next day and check if people actualy look at it. Postion is everything baby.

*) flour Glue tip: use gluten free rice flour, it dries rock hard. Mix with hot water and voila! Otherwise cornflour, plain flour or wall paper paste. Put the glue into a small bucket and carry your wall-ready mix around in supermarket shopping bags (a la innocent consumer).

#) the 'personal touch' is a winner for making people think about the issues. variations on a theme of slogans also works well, it jogs memories.

#) postering in big slabs (maybe 30 or 40 A4/A3 sheets all together) works very well in terms of not getting taken down or covered over. The finished paste-up can be make an impression by it's sheer scale alone. Some printeries also print impressive A0 size.

*)Two or three people is ideal. Use a lookout. If questioned by a member of the public, it can be wise to explain that the streets are our free press, this is our mode of public expression. Majority of people will not do anything - such is society.

*)don't paste/spray over other people's non-commercial work. practice respect for others. there are many walls out there, keep your eyes peeled for good positions.

*)Sticker tip: when designing your sticker place your main idea/message/image in the middle of the sticker. when people try to rip your effort down they'll rip the edges and not your message (most likely get bored and walk away).Print through fotocopier or computer printer or just use a pen. Hairspray stops the message washing off.

#)Paint bombs can be made by poking holes in both ends of an egg and blowing out the contents, then filling with paint using a syringe and sealing with wax. Christmas bon bons or used light bulbs that can be unscrewed are also good. Paint shops often have cheap seconds paints that were just not the right colour.

#)Stencils can be easily made out of card or lino - flooring shops often have scraps you can have and card ain't that hard to scavenge.

#)For Billboards letters can be printed out 1 to a page using a computer and pasted on. Speech bubbles are also good. Alternatively you can get rollers and paint over the whole thing.

Zines

Don't be put off by hoity toity zinesters who like to make their zines look slick (i.e. this one). Doing a zine is as easy as sitting down with a pen, paper, scissors and glue. Photocopying can be scammed from local politicians, student unions - any beauracracy with money. Put them on buses, in newsagents, radical bookstores, cafes, just get it out there. Small publishing is an excellent antidote to the media monopoly.

More Tech

*)Check out ←www.cleansurface.org→ for a compilation of melbourne street work.

*) use the internet wisely. don't discuss anything by email you wouldn't write on a postcard.

Re: dead rockstars and dying movie stars

the desire to play has returned to destroy the hierarchical society which banished it" - Raoul Vaneigem

The best things in life *really are* *free!*

Priceless.

There are some things money can't buy.

YOUR NEIGHBORS MAY NOT BE CONSUMING ENOUGH MATERIAL GOODS

Watch them carefully and report any suspected non-consumers to the proper authorities. Help rid America of anti-purchasing subversives.

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Sen. Clinton Anderson (D-N.M.) is urging all Americans to keep an eye out for potential non-consumers lurking in their communities.

"Each one of us has to do his part to protect America from those subversives who do not believe in buying as much as possible," Anderson said. "Anti-Consumerism is the worst form of treachery, and its disloyal practitioners must be found out and interrogated, wherever they may be."

"If you spot someone in your town who is not shopping for new cars, washers, dryers, toasters, televisions, vacuum cleaners, lawn mowers or ovens, report them immediately to your local authorities," Anderson said. "We cannot have America's buying power undermined by a small handful of Godless non-purchasers."

According to Harvard University political-science professor A. Crandall Dewitt, non-consumers have infiltrated virtually every sphere of American society, from the Pentagon to Hollywood. It has been confirmed that there are at least seven members of Congress who are not currently trading in their cars for the newer model, Dewitt said, and at least four high-level members of the Eisenhower Administration who have not purchased an electric blender in the past year.

"These people, with their shocking disinterest in the latest American-made products, are a threat to our way of life," Dewitt said.

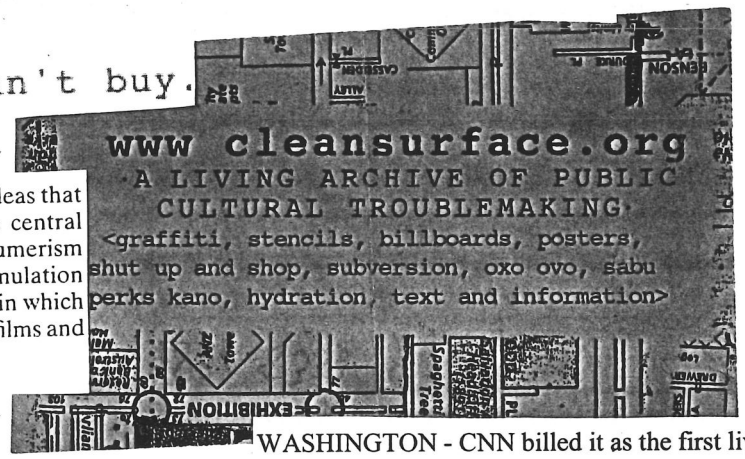
In congress Tuesday, Anderson outlined the three warning signs that someone you know is a non-consumer: One, he spends his weekends relaxing at home rather than shopping at local stores; two, his home is filled with items that are neither new nor improved; and three, he puts a majority of his weekly paycheck into the bank rather than into the robust American economy via the purchase of record-players, sewing machines, chest freezers and sail-boats.

"Watch for these warning signs," Anderson said. "It is your duty as a loyal American consumer to report such un-American activities."

Anderson, who himself was accused by several fellow senators last week of being a non-consumer, responded by producing a receipt from Woolworth's showing that he had spent $25.32 at the store last Sunday on 11 items, including a hammer, a Norelco electric razor and a 40-foot garden hose.

"America fought too hard in the Second World War to have it undermined by a treacherous few who do not believe in owning the latest model of every modern American-made product available," he said, holding up his razor. "Why, that's what being an American is all about."

The control of ideas in the interests of consumerism is almost total. The ideas that are antagonistic to the global capitalist project can be reduced to one central counter-hegemonic idea, the rejection of the culture-ideology of consumerism itself. Without consumerism, the rationale for continuous capitalist accumulation dissolves. It is the capacity to commodify all ideas and material products in which they adhere, television images, advertisements, newsprint, books, tapes, films and so on, not the ideas themselves, that capitalism strives to appropriate.



WASHINGTON - CNN billed it as the first live online interview with a sitting president of the United States. Then a computer prankster jumped in and had Bill Clinton telling an Internet audience he would like to see more porn on the Internet.

Christopher Petro, a computer security consultant, said he did the prank because, a) it was easy, and, b) he wanted to illustrate the flaws in New Media journalism.

"It was completely unplanned. I was just on there monitoring the chat just like everyone else. ... It asked me for a nickname," said Petro, who works for Lorcom Technologies, an Internet company in New York.

Those who logged into CNN's chat room for the special interview read the president saying, "Personally, I would like to see more porn on the Internet."

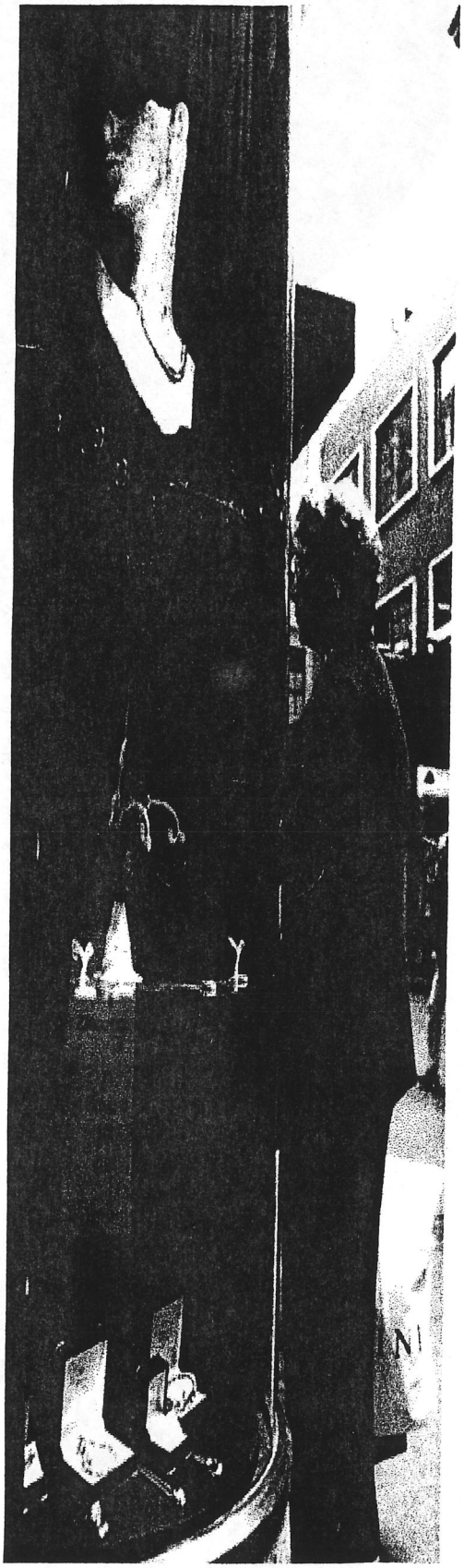
Petro told Reuters he posted an account and computer log of the incident, under the nickname Wankel, on his personal Internet site, boredom.com. He said he did not break into the system from the outside.

Petro actually posted three comments under Clinton's name. The last one was, "Okay, that was just too much. My apologies." ----------

SODOMIZED AGAIN!
POOR BURT! HE HAD TO GO TO WORK AGAIN TODAY!
I WAS DETERMINED NOT TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE DOING THE SAME MEANINGLESS SHIT! REAL LIFE HAD TO BE ELSEWHERE.
18 YEARS OF OBEYING THE RULES OF MY FAMILY AND TEACHERS. I EVEN SERVED TIME IN COLLEGE. NOW THIS....
YOU'RE HIRED BURT! CONSIDER YOURSELF OUR PRODUCT NOW. WE'LL EVEN DO YOUR THINKING FOR YOU. AFTER ALL; WE'RE ONLY ASKING FOR YOUR LIFE!
FUCKING PIG!
GOSH! THANKS MR. TAYLOR!
I BEGAN TO FUCK UP AND STEAL FROM THE REAL TIME BANDITS - THE BOSS. I ALMOST LOOKED FOWARD TO WORK. UNTIL...
...WE SUSPECT SABOTAGE. THE UNIONS AGREE THAT THIS SORT OF THING MUST BE STOPPED.
I WAS TIRED OF WAITING FOR 'SOMEDAY.' I MADE UP MY MIND TO ACT! I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE FROM TERMINAL BOREDOM. JANE HAD A SUGGESTION...
... THE UNIONS ARE WHOREHOUSES AND THE LEFT IS JUST AN ALTERNATE RELIGION — WORSHIPPING IMPOTENCE!
FUCK THE LEFT!! SETTLE THINGS YOURSELVES!!
SHE WAS RIGHT! IN A SOCIETY THAT ABOLISHES ADVENTURE, THE ONLY ADVENTURE IS IN ABOLISHING THAT SOCIETY...
TOMMORROW I CUT OFF THE BOSS' BALLS.
NO MORE POLITICS OF SUBMISSION. WE'LL DEMAND EVERYTHING!!
TODAY'S OUR LUCKY DAY! WE'VE HUNG THE BOSS AND SEIZED THE FACTORY. NOW LET'S TRASH THE COUNTRY!!
Oooon — LET ME PUT ON MY LOOTING CLOTHES!!
WHY NOT MAKE THIS YOUR LUCKY DAY! FOR A WORLD WITHOUT MONEY OR BOSSES OF ANY KIND — SCREW YOUR BOSS, HE'S SCREWING YOU!

Capitalist Fundamentalism

The Grand Mafia Godfathers of Capitalist Fundamentalism are on a rampage. Behind their PR poker faces they play cards under the table, and if they lose a round we bail them out with blood money. Through force, fraud and seduction they spout their manifest destiny so loudly we can't see it half the time; because it drowns out everything else. They send in the crusaders and conmen; advertisers, marketers, film and tv producers, gadgets, models, high cut dresses and sleepy garters, and if that doesn't work, guns. In their crusade some are partly liberated, (those who follow the pied piper of simulated youth rebellion can at least challenge the patriarchal tyranny of the family and repressive dress and self-expression codes), but they dictate the domination of the dollar so that it rules over everything, the new false god of the age.



God is dead and money is more alive than he ever was. It pumps wildly through global silicon veins, blushing the cheeks of the wealthy, making them glow ever brighter with each rise of the Dow Jones and every corporate tax cut. Their lighted faces would obscure the night sky with darkness had they not already - with fake fairy lights spread to camouflage their greedy glow.

Capitalist Fundamentalism knows no bounds. Pillaging greater then the crusades, more awash with greed and murder than the colonists and stealing more minds than the church could have ever hoped. Don't fear the "extremists", the extremists are already in. Governments and Corporations are criminals with the right credentials. Grand Mafia Godfathers with their spy networks and marketing divisions, playing global gang warfare with a PR poker face to keep us working for that perfect dream emanating from the flickering screen. Elusive because it is an illusion.

Fundamentalists are dangerous because they are dogmatic (like some ranters). Those who see no other option to capitalism are fundamentalists because they prophetise profit as fundamental to society. Money is arbitrary. Private property is an invention. Capitalist Fundamentalism is a religious fervour for power, devouring life and crunching it to numbers in an unholy Trinity of money, work and consumerism. Religion falls by the way side when people realise it's teachings no longer correlate with reality and new knowledge and fail to be hoodwinked. The more hardened often cannot be swayed by fact and prefer blissful ignorance, others have powerful positions to protect.

In our case reality gets manipulated to postpone the realisation that we are getting fucked or to offer us something better than action. The world passes as images; cut, edited, computer manipulated and sound-tracked. A smokescreen to hide the lies. Smokescreens, however, are subject to the wind and none are ever big enough to obscure everything, to dominate every moment. A force big enough can blow them into the sky.

Change begins with the realisation that change is possible.

I DIDN'T GO TO WORK TODAY...

...I DON'T THINK I'LL GO TOMORROW

LET'S TAKE CONTROL OF OUR LIVES AND LIVE FOR PLEASURE NOT PAIN

Work. We are all made to feel guilty if we're not doing it. Spending all our time working so that some one else can make a killing from our labour. Well if you don't think you can quit, the least you could do is phone in sick (www.underbelly.demon.co.uk/decadent - www.iww.org.au).

Most work on offer is socially useless as we busily create more useless junk to feed our flawed economic theories. A 'leisure' society where we spend more time doing the things that interest us is much more likely to be socially, economically and environmentally productive.

RELigioN

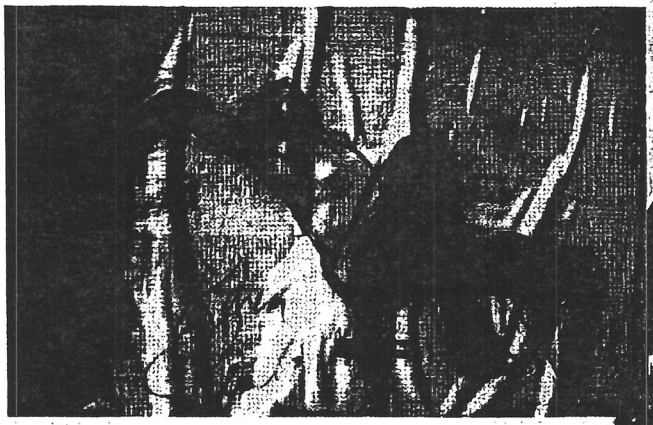
BREAK FROM CONSENSUS REALITY

Let's face it - Religion and spirituality are not the same thing. Ignore the ranting of self-serving intellectuals and confront your own belief system head-on. Do or read things that directly challenge your construction of reality, whether it be rationality, materialism, Christianity, Buddhism, anarchism, communism, science, capitalism, postmodernism (which is just an extension of modernism) etc.

Tired of organised religion and sick of religious con artists? Why not make your own? (www.subgenious.com - www.cs.cmu.edu/~tilt/principia/ - discordia.org.uk/). Hell, let's not pretend to know the parts of reality, life is weird so why not indulge in the infinite possibilities rather than narrow our world down to a single world view. Most understandings from whatever belief systems are based on assumptions that have no permanent solid foundations. It's more a question of what reality do you choose to live in and how does it fit with your experience?

People are not stupid, we do not need regulation upon regulation to tell how we can live better lives. We can work out our issues between ourselves. We certainly do not need a dictatorship of the proletariat.

The producers of this leaflet recognise that internet access is primarily at the disposal of those living in the higher economic scales. Computers are toys that are highly questionable in terms of environmental and social impacts. This may sound contradictory to the rest of the content of this leaflet but we really don't care. There is one final all important website that you should check out before you walk away from the glimmering screen - nag.ljudmila.org/neoism/



The Blind Authority™

MANIPULATION CORPORATION

blindauthority.issexy.com

Neoist Apt fest year 00:00

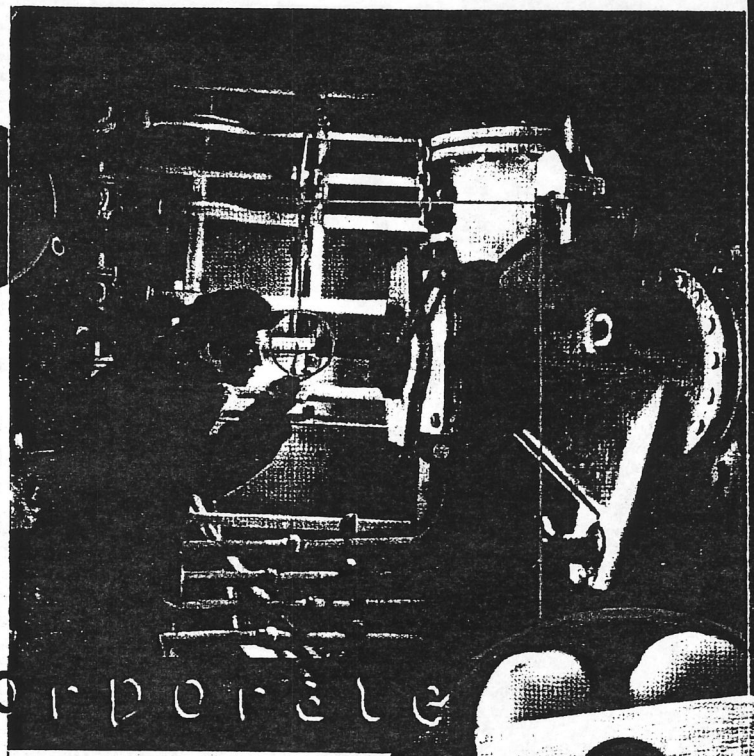
Quit your job!

Begin your own life long festival

BOREDOM

WHAT PRICE IS OUR CULTURE?

The 'culture' industry, the never ending spectacle that threatens to bore us to death. Those revolving doors where the value of so called 'art' is determined by its pricetag. Old cliches are vomited back up and presented to us as a replacement for everyday life. Those that can't afford to indulge or really are not interested are 'uncultured'. Of course the whole idea of culture being separated acts of spectatorship is ludicrous. Your job is culture, shopping is culture, the food you eat is culture, the waste you flush down the toilet is culture, politics is culture and economics is the central point for defining 'our' culture. The price on the door is as much culture as the theatre you go to watch. I'm not saying don't get your kicks off from watching it: just don't expect anything more profound than the latest Hollywood production or the latest 30 second slot for McDonald's. Shakespeare or Coca Cola what's the difference? It's all the same really and once you are saturated in it the boredom starts to sink in (www.panix.com/~notbored/index.html). Ever desired to really participate in our 'culture'? Why not give up keeping up and start your own permanent free culture? Don't pay a cent. Create your own free festival. It's more fun and better value. Rediscover the place where you live. Practice psychogeography (business.virgin.net/nigel.ayers/map.html), explore subterranean city (www.caveclan.org), Challenge your own identity; call yourself Luther Blissett (www.syntac.net/lutherblissett/), or if you just happen to be male why not try Karen Eliot (www.arttm.org.uk/gallery/eliot/index.htm). Organise a street party (members.xoom.com/sydneyrts/), create your own autonomous zones (www.hermetic.com/bey/TAZ), or how about a party on two wheels (www.sflandmark.com/cm/wwwheel/altindex.html). Invite Bud (members.aol.com/touristbud/index.htm) to come and visit you or perhaps have an alien abduction implant (www.alienabductions.com), or build your own proletarian space exploration vehicle (www.deepdisc.com/aaa/smatrix.html - www.tO.or.at/aboutOn.htm)



CORPORATE DICTATORSHIP

DENY, DELAY, DOMINATE

Ah corporate (www.corpwatch.org) sponsorship basking in the light of the 'arts'. What philanthropists! pigs arse! Why let corporations (www.lists.essential.org/corp-focus) define our culture? Why not model your own fluid construction of culture? To understand how our culture is manufactured it might just be useful to understand how corporations manipulate public and political agendas (www.prwatch.org/index.html) Deny, Delay, Dominate is their main strategy; that is deny there is a problem with a product, delay effective action and dominate the international agenda and the marketplace in the search for alternatives. Corporations pump billions into advertising. How does this affect mass psychology? (www.adbusters.org - www.critpath.org/illcompute/default.html). Are we all searching for the unobtainable? Fuck plastic corporate fantasies, invent your own (www.moles.org/ - www.McSpotlight.org).

Only those who attempt the impossible Achieve the absurd

GLOBALISATION

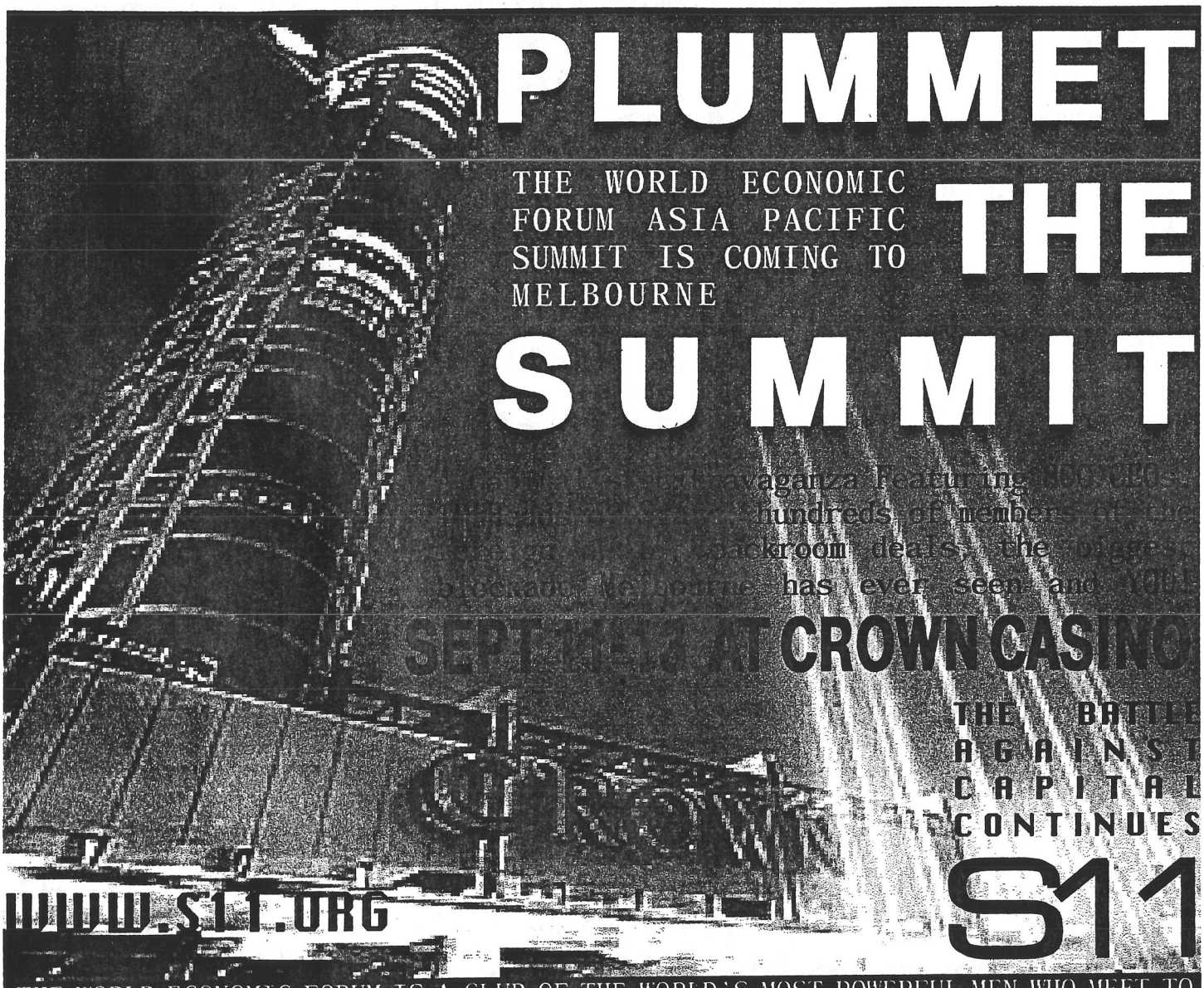
ECONOMIC SODOMY

Don't let the corporations (www.endgame.org/) overrun democracy and rule the planet. Their agenda is to override federal Government, turn us into slaves and massacre the environment for their own profit (gatt.org). Cancer, accidents and environmental disasters all count as economic benefits according to dominant economic measurement. That's insane. Check out different understandings of economics (www.economist.com) It doesn't have to be based on individualistic competitiveness resulting in conformity. An economy centred on gifts and sharing is possible. Smash down (if you have to) permaculture the land you live on (www.permaculture.net/) cooperate with your neighbours. Examine your local ecology (www.urbanecology.org.au)

MEDIA

MASS MANIPULATION

Think you're gonna get any valuable information from watching corporate media? Even 'public' media has corporate perimeters. Hell who owns the media anyhow? The most important news stories go unreported (www.sonoma.edu/ProjectCensored/menu.html - www.indexoncensorship.org). Mass media works on the myth of 'impartiality', but really all you get is lies, lies, lies. Well at least half truths and twisted perspectives. The only views we get are the ones corporations want. More importantly mass media never covers issues it only covers events thus making it easier to sway public perceptions. Its main objective is to sell. We don't need 'alternative' media, we just need thousands of more perspectives of reality to be easily accessible. A wider range of points of views will engage us in media more and make us much more critical of the information we receive. What we need is MASS media rather than what we have now which is mono media fed to a mass audience. Throw a brick in your television set (www.netreach.net/~kaufman/ - www.tufa.org/) and sledgehammer your Radio. Well maybe you don't have to go that far, maybe just yawn, turn it off, and build your own media empire. Build your own radio station (www.blackcatsystems.com/radio/pirate.html) or broadcast on the internet (www.frn.net/ - pirateradio.co.uk - www.freewaves.org) set up your own television station (www.channel31.org.au - www.accessnews.skatv.org.au - www.piratetv.net) or make your own activist video (www.undercurrents.org - www.chaos.org.au/subvertigo.asp) If this sounds too expensive, there are cheaper more resourceful options. Take your message to the streets (www.cleansurface.org). Make a zine (www.octopod.org.au - www.evolver.loud.org.au/). Make your own website (rtmark.com - mailer.fsu.edu/~sbarnes - www.disinfo.com/). Open your mind to a larger range of points of views (www.loompanics.com - www.akpress.org). Make your own recordings (www.halcyon.com/robinja/mythos/aaa.html - nigel.iscute.com). We need to make a radical break from the dominant world views if we are interested in building a better place to live that is sustainable and material wealth is shared with all. In pursuit of this, politics shouldn't need to be boring to be valid and protesting can be a festival in its own right (www.oneworld.net/ - omsnotbombs.cia.au - www.geocities.com/Area51/Comet/9034/ - www.lockon.org/) and a festival can be a kind of protest (www.dte.org.au/ConFest/ConFest.html). Now I'm bored writing this rhetorical leaflet and my imagination has left me. so I'm just going to throw these websites down in no particular order. I don't even know what they all are anymore. www.aboriginalgenocide.com.au - www/obn.org - www.spunk.org - www.enviroweb.org/issues/enough/index.html - www.beatnik.demon.co.uk/ - www.renewal.org.au/object/ www.geocities.com/CapitalHill/Senate/5728 - oliv.com.au/foley/ - www.shutupandshop.wild.net.au - www.chaser.com.au - www.geco.org.au - www.nativeforest.org - www.metropolis.net.au/foe/ www.squat.com/twopointthree/ - come.to/lakeeyre - www.irational.org/ www.cacophony.org/ - www.fyi.net/~anon/kneehigh.html www.teknet.au/~eye/Blatant_Propaganda_zine.htm - www.tao.ca netspace.net.au/~pigmeat/ - members.xoom.com/endhunger/ -



PLUMMET THE SUMMIT

THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM ASIA PACIFIC SUMMIT IS COMING TO MELBOURNE

vaganza featuring [illegible]
hundreds of members of the
backroom deals, the biggest
has ever seen and YOU!

SEPT [illegible] AT CROWN CASINO

THE BATTLE AGAINST CAPITAL CONTINUES

WWW.S11.ORG

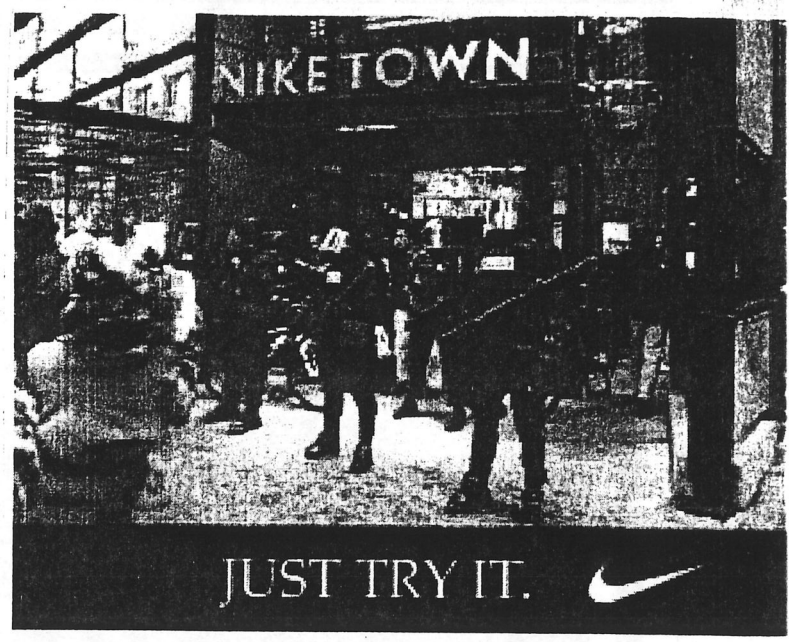
S11

THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM IS A CLUB OF THE WORLD'S MOST POWERFUL MEN WHO MEET TO CONTINUE THE SPREAD OF CORPORATE MONOCULTURE ACROSS THE PLANET IN THE INTERESTS OF PROFIT, NOT PEOPLE. THEIR ACTIVITIES MAINTAIN AND EXPAND ENVIRONMENTAL DESTRUCTION, MASS CONSUMERISM, FAMINE, UNEMPLOYMENT, BORING, USELESS AND INSECURE WORK. THE WEF ASIA PACIFIC SUMMIT IS COMING TO MELBOURNE JUST BEFORE THE OLYMPICS WITH A WHOS'S WHO OF CORPORATE HEADS, POLITICIANS, ACADEMICS & MEDIA.

PARTY & PROTEST AGAINST CORPORATE GLOBALISATION

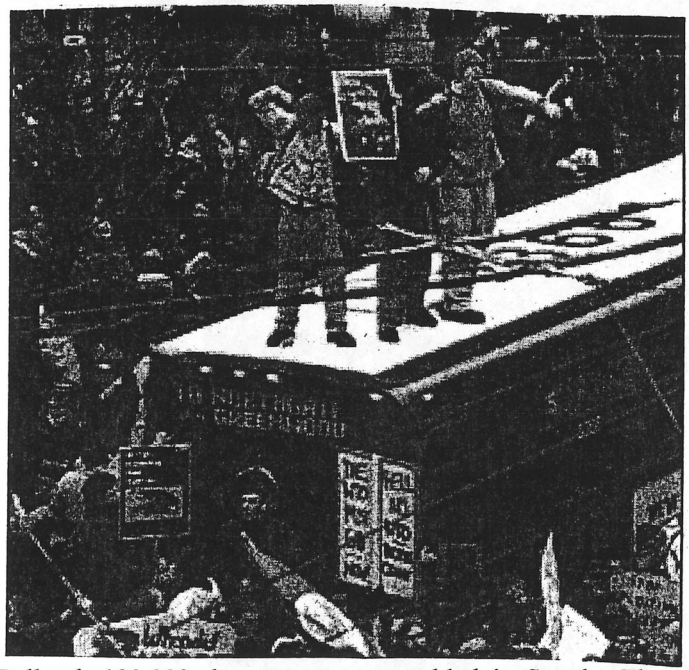
THE G8 GLOBAL PROTESTS (J18), AND WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION ACTIONS IN SEATTLE WHICH ATTRACTED MORE THAN 100,000 PEOPLE, SHUTTING DOWN THE WTO, ARE INSPIRING MOVES IN THE BACKLASH AGAINST CORPORATE FEUDALISM AND THE EFFORT TO CREATE A FUTURE THAT PUTS PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT FIRST. SHUT DOWN THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM! CONTACT - WWW.S11.ORG OR CALL TRADES HALL OR FRIENDS OF THE EARTH.

THE BATTLE FOR SEATTLE PROTESTING THE WORLD TRADE ORGANISATION



The spectre of tens of thousands of workers, environmentalists, human rights activists and anarchists, seizing the streets of Seattle, was a stirring sight indeed. Their opposition to the antidemocratic, corporation-heavy World Trade Organization earned them the enmity of the corporate media, and the vocal condemnation of corporate politicians.

The WTO, the successor organization to the GATT-General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, functions as a virtual shadow government, in fact a Super-government, that rides roughshod over the national and state concerns seeking to protect the wages of workers, insure environmental standards and protect collective bargaining gains. To the extent that the WTO consists of a collection of governments, it in fact protects corporate interests: the primary interest of capital, over and above all other interests. In this context, the demonstrations were a welcome and powerful corrective, expressing the views of the many, not protecting the interests of the few.



Ballpark 100,000 demonstrators assembled in Seattle. They are farmers and industrial workers, unionists and environmentalists, young and old, men and women, from the U.S. and from the third world, and they are angry and their target is the WTO, and thus also oppressive world trade, and thus also, just a minor step beyond, the market system and capitalism itself. They are there to raise social costs to elites high enough, by their actions on the scene and by the repercussions for continuing organizing all around the world (75,000 demonstrated in France, for example) to curtail or better close down the WTO agenda.

Upon learning that Seattle would host the next meeting of the WTO, concerned citizens, activists, labour leaders and environmentalists all realized that strong action had to be taken if the interests and voices of the common people were to be heard. So they organized for the event.

Protestors simply marched to designated intersections in massive numbers and joined hands around the entrances to the buildings. Some of them chained themselves to wooden platforms in the middle of the street and sang and chanted. Others linked arms and thus prevented trade delegates from attending the day's events. At 3:00PM they were joined by about 40,000 union members who were on a labour march nearby.

The opening ceremonies were delayed, then cancelled. The protesters were in a boisterous, cheerful mood. Their plan had succeeded. The police, on the other hand, failed miserably. They failed to anticipate the huge crowds and the enormous backlash against the WTO.

Then, they over-reacted. At about 10:30 in the morning they fired the first canisters of tear gas and the first rounds of rubber bullets. They brought in reinforcements, dressed in full riot gear, and then added armoured personal carriers. As the day wore on the police attacked several times with concussion grenades, pepper spray, tear gas, rifles that fired hard rubber bullets and of course, they beat people with large wooden batons.

At about 5:00 PM the police launched a major offensive and managed to back the protesters up a few blocks. The WTO was cancelled for the day. At 7:00 PM a dusk to dawn curfew was imposed and a state of emergency was declared. The Seattle police beat and tear gassed citizens all night long, having moved the protesters into the residential areas of Seattle. Reinforcements were called in from county sheriffs and Washington State troopers. The National Guard was called up. I spoke to dozens of citizens and all confirmed that this was the first time in history that they had seen the military patrol the streets of Seattle.

Much can be said about the much-maligned anarchists that rocked the mid-city, by attacking the shimmering edifices of capital. The press leaped at the opportunity to call them "thugs," or "hooligans," who were involved in "violence." What is missing from the reportage, of course, is that those young folks attacked property, not other beings. Meanwhile, the state, through its police, attacked persons, kicking them, gassing them, beating them, and jailing them.

The people, quite simply, spoke. A wide fusion of radical environmentalists, labor activists, human rights advocates, and social justice workers made the WTO listen when for five years it had adamantly refused. The terms of the free trade debate have forever been changed; no amount of tear gas or police harassment of demonstrators after the fact changed that bottom line. For one day, a ragtag army of global citizens spoke--and the world listened.

Sources - www.infoshop.org www.agitprop.org

THE DANGERS OF CO-OPTATION WITH CORPORATIONS CURRENT PR PRACTICES AGAINST CAMPAIGNERS

Andy Rowell

Over 2,000 Ogoni, including their leader, Ken Saro-Wiwa have died since they started their non-violent campaign against Shell. Many Ogoni are still imprisoned today. Their only crime was to campaign against the ecological destruction of their homeland by Shell and ask for a greater share of the oil wealth that had been drilled from under their land. What have the Ogoni got to do with corporate PR, you might ask? Right from the start of the Nigerian conflict, Shell was more interested in preserving its image than protecting the environment or listening to the grievances of the peoples of the Niger Delta. The company complained that it suffered from a communication problem, rather than a real one. In the weeks after Ken Saro-Wiwa was executed, Shell, which faced a public corporate crisis, tried to spin its way out of trouble, spending millions of dollars justifying its continuing operations in Nigeria. In the company's adverts and press releases, the Ogoni were portrayed as violent, as separatists, as sappateurs, while Shell systematically lied to the world over its links with the military regime. How the truth was manipulated in Nigeria is just one small example of corporate public relations industry that spends 35 billion dollars a year protecting business interests world-wide. What is PR? It is the secretive art of subtle manipulation, whose point, in the words of one Mobil executive "is getting people to behave the way you hope they will behave by persuading them that it is ultimately in their interest to do so".

We should not underestimate the power of corporate PR - Indeed some people argue that corporate propaganda threatens democracy itself. As Australian scholar Alex Carey said: "The twentieth century has been characterised by three developments of great political importance; the growth of democracy, the growth of corporate power and the growth of corporate propaganda as a means of protecting corporate power against democracy."Lets look at some specific examples of corporate PR at work, and what we can learn from them. In 1995, the year Saro-Wiwa was murdered, Shell received a prestigious Award from the then Chancellor, Ken Clarke for its range of corporate videos, one of which was on climate change. Being the largest global oil company in the world, Shell should be worried about climate change. It is now an established fact that we are changing the world's climate. The burning of fossil fuels is largely to blame. For the last forty years, Shell and the other fossil fuel companies have adopted a dinosaur mentality towards climate change. Instead of joining the debate constructively, they set out to destroy it. Essentially the oil industry responded with what we call the 3-D PR Strategy.

The industry has treated climate change as a PR problem - it has funded so-called independent scientists and formed green-sounding front groups, such as the Global Climate Coalition. The GCC, which was set up in the late eighties, was formed to scupper the UN Climate negotiations. In the run up to the Kyoto meeting last December, the GCC spent $60 million dollars trying to persuade the public that they were not to blame and justify a business as usual future - even though that future jeopardises the long-term viability of life on earth. The use of climate front groups, such as the Global Climate Coalition is just one of the many PR techniques companies are using to counter the environmental movement.

The techniques are very simple: On the one hand to co-opt the environmental debate and on the other to demonise and marginalise the environmental movement. Co-option can take many forms; companies have spent billions adopting the language of the environmental movement, or greenwashing their products: Motor vehicles, the fastest growing source of pollution on the planet, have become "environmentally-friendly". Aerosols are "ozone friendly", washing powders are phosphate free, even when most had no phosphate in them anyway, aluminium cans and paper bags are not recycled but also recyclable. Sustainable development has become one of the most co-opted and corrupted corporate terms used today. As well as changing their language, companies have changed their tactics - We must understand that for business, establishing links with environmental, human rights, development and Indigenous groups and having dialogue with the opposition is a simple PR technique. I cannot stress this enough. Dialogue is the most important PR tactic that companies are using to overcome objections to their operations.

It is a typical divide and rule tactic. One PR guru has outlined a three step divide and conquer strategy on how corporations can defeat public interest activists who apparently fall into four distinct categories: "radicals", "opportunists", "idealists" and "realists". The goal is to isolate the radicals, "cultivate" the idealists and "educate" them into becoming realists, then co-opt the realists into agreeing with industry'.

To this end, Shell has pioneered a sophisticated "stakeholder" process, which it hopes will become a blueprint for industry to use elsewhere. Having learned from its operations in Nigeria and the Brent Spar fiasco, the company is trying a different tract in Peru, where it has been exploring for oil in some of the most culturally and ecologically sensitive rainforest left on the globe, but labels it "model sustainable development". In an unprecedented move, the company held a series of workshops in Lima, Washington and London in December 1997 and June 1998 to which

some 90 interested groups or "stakeholders" in its Peruvian Camisea project were invited. Not up for discussion was whether the project should go ahead, but how it should go ahead. Meanwhile, the whole process has divided different groups on whether to take part in the Shell- initiative.

We can also learn from advice companies like Shell are receiving from security firms, such as Control Risks, based in London. In a lecture last autumn, John Bray, Head of Research at Control Risks, advised the oil industry how to counter pressure groups, recommending that:

* It is no longer acceptable practice purely to operate to national environmental and social laws.
* Companies must operate and be seen to be operating to the best practices worldwide, to a uniform set of international standards.
* Many local groups are linked to international pressure groups in the US and Europe. Companies must try to undermine those links by:
* Increasing dialogue with stakeholders

The bottom line, say Control Risks, is that if you dialogue with people, then you win. If you meet a group that will not compromise, then you have a problem. One recent classic example of this is the Uwa from Colombia who refused to backtrack against oil development and even threatened suicide if Occidental and Shell drilled on their land. It was the companies who backed down.

What is interesting about what Control Risks are saying is that by advocating companies operating to global best practice, they are putting forward the same argument that some mainstream environmental and development NGOs are. This is exactly what the companies want - a harmonisation of standards and respectability world-wide, while they carry on their own operations, largely on a business as usual scenario.

The most dangerous document is Shell's "Profits and Principles: Does there have to be a Choice". "We care what you think about us, it says in hand-writing" on the inside cover, whilst also mentioning dialogue. Shell, by the way are also spending $30 million changing their image. Despite the great green rhetoric, fundamental differences exist between Shell's vision and our vision for the future. Take the issue of globalisation. It says in the Profits and Principles book that "Shell strongly supports globalisation for a way to ensure greater prosperity for all".

Many people now realise that the issue of globalisation is becoming the most important ecological, economic and social issue of our time. Globalisation represents a race to the bottom for the economy, for the environment and for equity. It represents the age of insecurity for the likes of you and me. To Shell it represents a business as usual future.

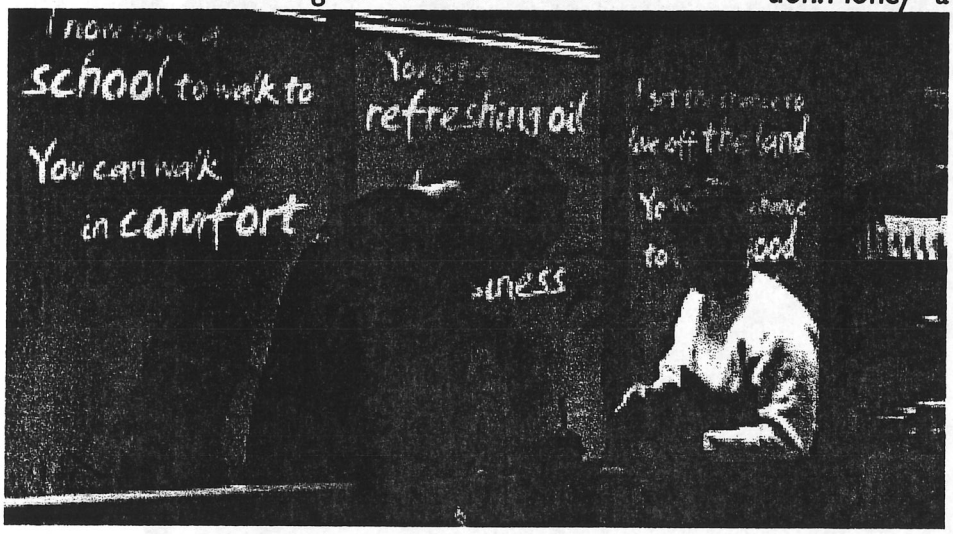
What is our vision for the future? We cannot just highlight the problems, we also have to start working on solutions. Do we accept Shell's and Monsanto's vision of a globalised world dominated by Microsoft and McDonalds and other unaccountable corporations, who see no limits to growth or limits on manipulation of life. In essence, do we believe that TNCs are part of the solution or problem? You should ask the Ogoni 19, who were arrested for campaigning against Shell, who were arrested by Shell's own Nigerian Police, and who have languished in jail for four years despite Shell's newly found commitment to human rights, what they think. You should ask the Ogoni 19 whether they believe Shell to be part of the problem or solution. I think you would find that they believe there is a difference between principle and profit.

Andrew Rowell is the author of Green Backlash, Global Subversion of the Environmental Movement. Quite a lot of this work has centred around the oil industry and biotech industry, with special emphasis on the PR initiatives by Monsanto and Shell. He is one of the very few people in the UK who tracks companies and their PR behaviour. He has been a leading dissident against the consensus that we should sit down and dialogue with TNCS.

At Shell, we are committed to support fundamental human rights and have made this commitment in our published Statement of General Business Principles. It begins with our own people, respecting their rights as employees wherever they work in the world. We invest in the communities around us to create new opportunities and growth. And we've also spoken out on the rights of individuals – even if the situation has been beyond our control. It's part of our commitment to sustainable development, balancing economic progress with environmental care and social responsibility. In today's business environment, we don't pretend there are any easy answers, but we continue to stay involved. Because making a living begins with respecting life.

Rebellion is good for Business

The shadow of capital suns itself in every location, turning even its opposition into itself. Rebellion becomes a product sold back to the disaffected, reinforcing the system that first bred the dissent. Capitalism makes money from its enemies. The desire for life - freedom, revolution, rebellion, free time - become the promises of a product, promises made without the intent of ever being fulfilled. Capitalism spawns itself by enslaving desire, through unfulfillment, by keeping us longing/working for the next round of gadgets & lifestyles; the satisfied are bad consumers. Hijacking demands for change to its own ends, channeling desires into something to consume, capitalism stays afloat by attempting to bring everything within its boundaries. Lefties rejoice in the creation of meaningless work and environmentalists pass off the latest green gadgets, there is even an Amnesty International Visa card. We are prostitutes at the service of capital and the reformist ideologues are our pimps.



The media extract the volatility out of actions, destroy the potency of words and turn them into badges of rebellion, leaving only the husk of the argument behind, it's image, its greatest selling capabilities. Everything becomes reduced to a money making scheme - and the schemers and scammers are everywhere. In a world of ever increasing inauthenticity dissent becomes an authentic commodity for advertisers and image makers to strip mine, to turn into throwaway lines.
Monocular (tele)vision dominates the conversation turning ideas and actions into sound bites, T-shirts and the latest fad. Simulation over substance, form over content, symbols over action. Individual reactions, the diversity of interpretations, the threat and meaning of attempts to challenge capitalist domination become reduced to crass, standardised, representation.
Posturing is a highly dissatisfying experience compared to real action to transform your life.

Methods of consuming to save the world, like consuming to rebel, are doomed from the beginning for they only re-enforce the same modes of societal interaction we wish to abolish; interactions based on dollars and consumerism, of being possessed by your possessions, instead community, conviviality & communication. Money - a method of communication - is the poorest, a standardised, hollow reaction. We wish to steal power away from economic domination, not certify it by competing with it on grounds where we can neither win nor want to. We wish to create a world apart - to participate in our lives not in the media spectacle.

Who gets to participate in the consumer world? Who has power in the consumer world? Those with money of course. Voting is by the dollar. Businesses such as the Body Shop target the guilt ridden shopper, providing an image through which they can consume not only guilt free but with the illusion that they are helping save the planet. These activities are designed to serve the profiteers and the yuppies, not the poor and abused. Such activities reinforce the consumer system that is at the heart of environmental destruction by giving it a green/humanist tinge. Environmental and human rights groups that get co-opted by business - often with good intentions - become a PR strategy to mask those business's abuses, never getting to the root of the problem because they fail to demand radical changes, and so end up with cosmetic ones.

For all my rampant ranting I am not constructing a conspiracy theory here. Capitalists do not pick up on radical tendencies in order to disarm them, they just want

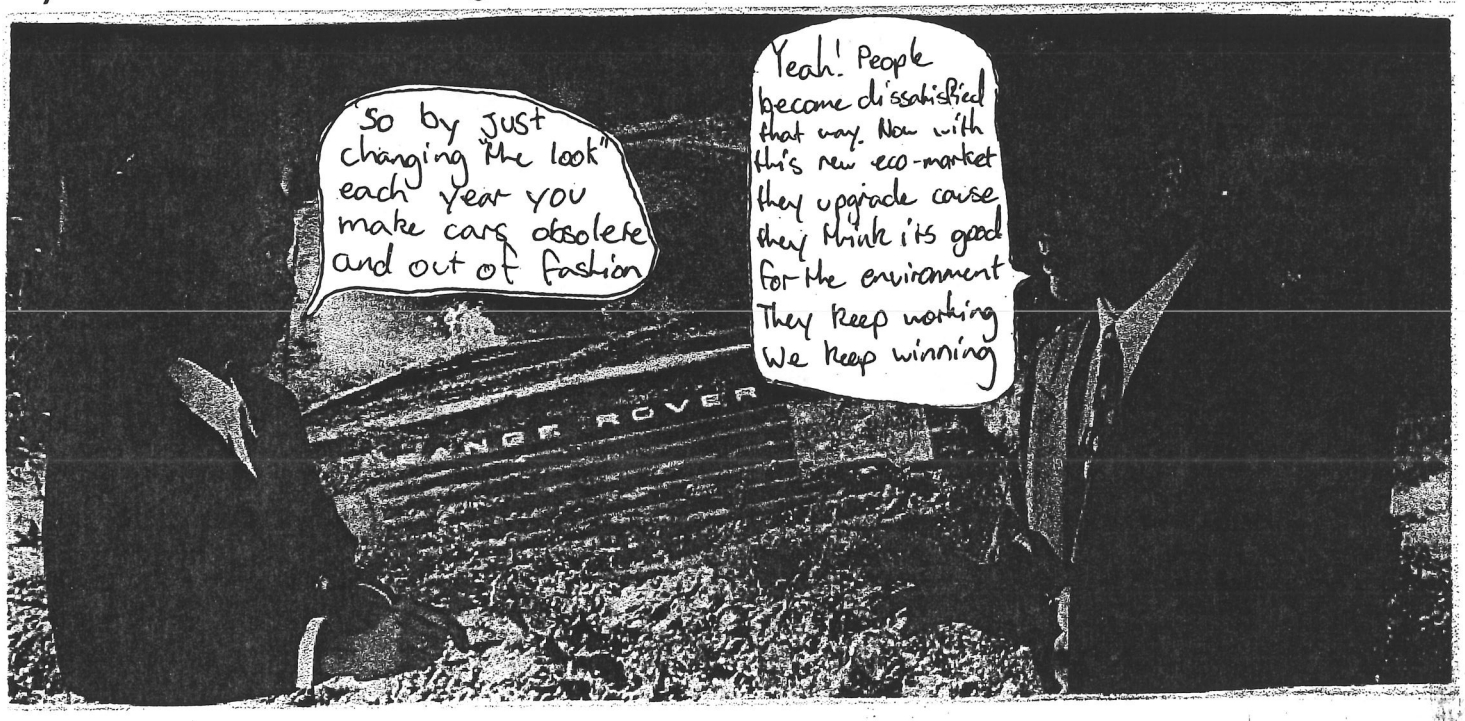
to make money off them. Capitalists are greedy enough that they will use anything to sell their products, even things that aim to destroy the very system from which they profit. In many cases dissenters sell themselves out rather then being sold out by failing to go beyond present social relationships. Short sightedness is a hallmark of the business world, the line between co-optation and subversion can be fine at times, but for the moment at least, it appears they are winning.

ARE THEY BRAINWASHING THEM OR SOMETHING? IS THAT NOT AGAINST THE LAW?
ASK NO QUESTIONS, BOBBY. THAT'S WHAT I SAY. IT'S GOOD MONEY.
ANYWAY, WOULD YOU RATHER SEE THESE LITTLE BASTARDS OUT THERE MUGGING OLD WOMEN AND CAUSING TROUBLE?

The mediums of communication also pose problems not just in their profit motive but in the alienation and separation that is part of their very structure. By using mediums (TV, film, newspapers, etc) and methods (consumerism) that maintain that separation - the divide between producer and consumer, actor and spectator, leader and follower - what do we really transcend. Do we not maintain power relations that are at the heart of the problem now. Isn't the point is to make a more participatory society, to dilute power, for each individual to take control of their own life. Obviously these mediums are not without uses but we have to make sure we navigate the terrain for pitfalls. An awarness is a beginning.

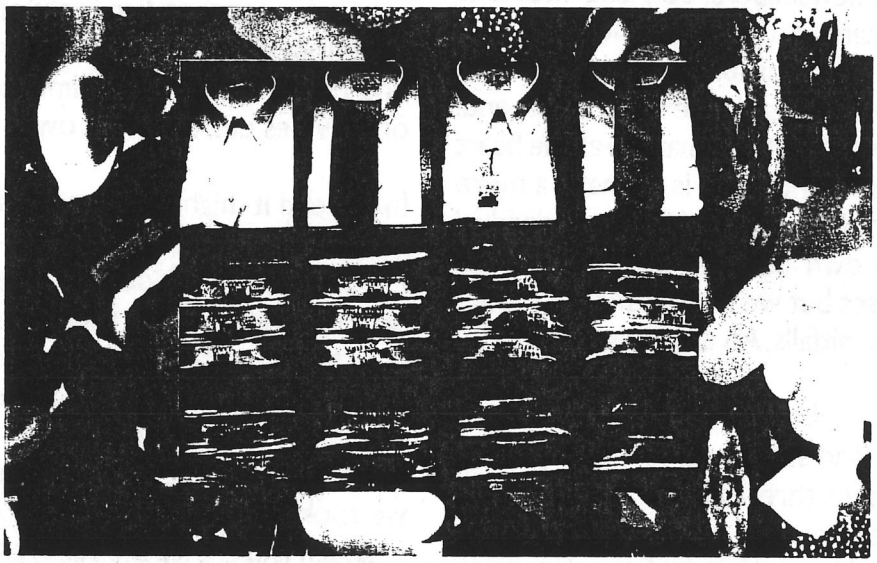
The mire of co-option and safety valves is, in my mind, probably the most serious threat to the radical change that is needed if we are to abolish the destruction, famine, greed, and mind numbing work that plague the planet. Pragmatism will not solve our problems at this late stage, only continue them at an abated/disguised level. In any case, who wants to live in a world of partial demands and survivalism? A poor world is not the proposal but one of an abundance of time, relationships, diversity of activities etc. add your own.

In the end it might be those that reject traditional rebellious roles that are successful - the permaculturalists, LETS volunteers, food and other co-operative workers etc. - working out of the media gaze; their images not stolen and sold because they deny a romanticism in their image and place it instead in their actions. This is not to suggest that we go on some kind of culture or imagery strike, culture is always stolen and adapted, we took it from somewhere else too. The point is to maintain and create the culture we want, one in which people approach it not as consumers or spectators, but as participants.

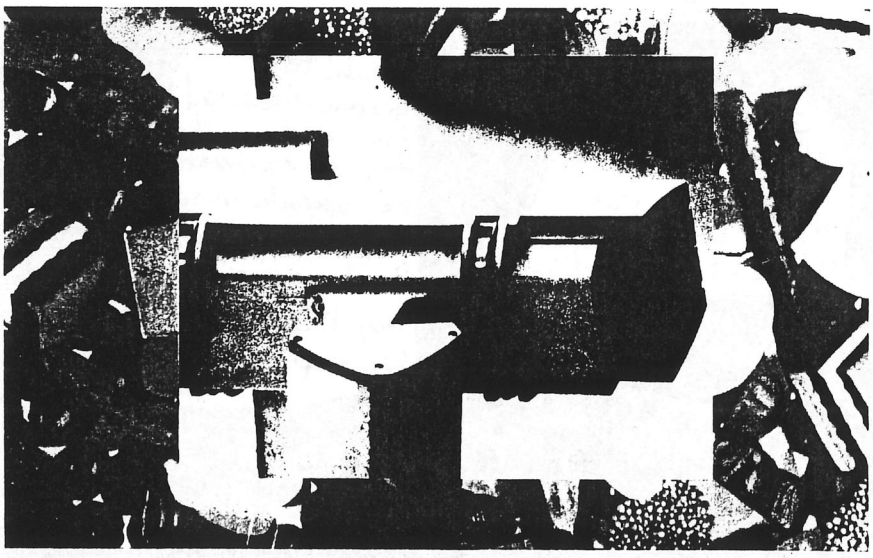

"So by just changing "the look" each year you make cars obsolete and out of fashion
Yeah! People become dissatisfied that way. Now with this new eco-market they upgrade cause they think it's good for the environment They keep working We keep winning
RANGE ROVER

Their roads are production lines

Scrambling for the pollution of money

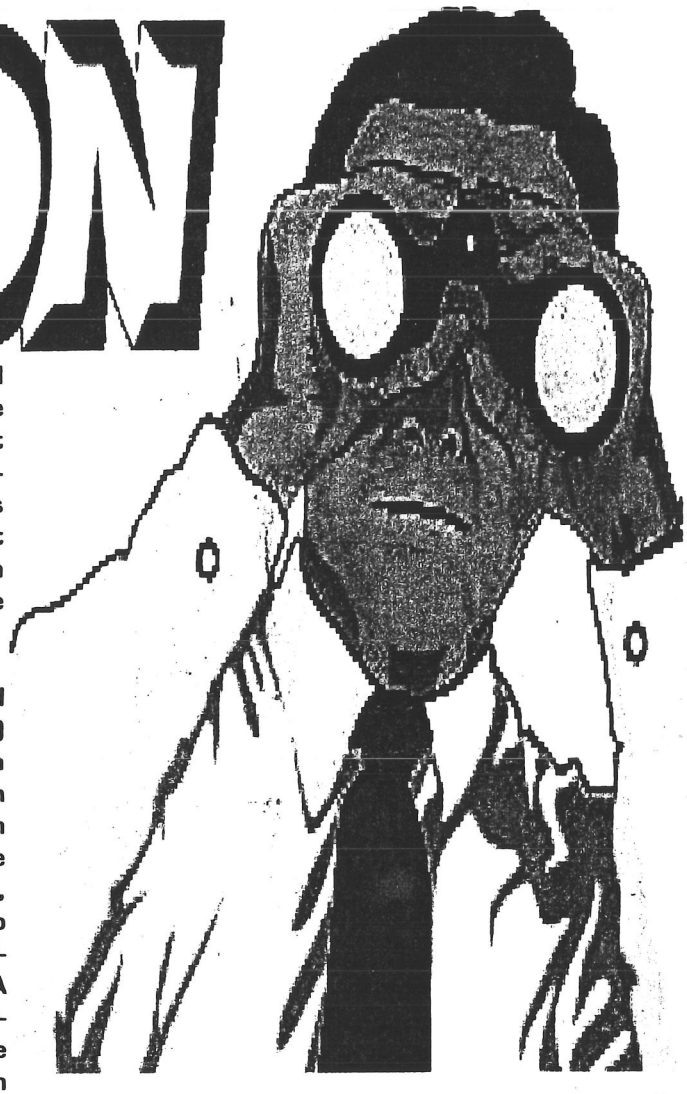


Bored & enraged at the already dead future



How do they keep us from revolting?

ECHELON



Echelon is the code name of a surveillance system that is capable of intercepting ordinary e-mail, fax, telex and telephone communications carried over the world's telecommunications networks"(1). Echelon isn't a bug or a powerful satellite or a sensitive receiver; it is a globally distributed network of interception sites which tap into major telecommunications systems. Echelon has effectively become a set of omnipresent eyes and ears that can see and hear everything.

Echelon is operated by the UK-USA alliance - a 'club' formed after World War Two by England, Canada, New Zealand, Australia and the United States. The top intelligence agencies in these collaborating countries allocate resources to serve Echelon. They tap in to local telecommunications neworks in order to monitor embassies, consulates, non-government and government offices, political groups and other groups and individuals who are perceived to be a potential threat.

The National Security Agency, or the NSA, is understood to be the driving force behind Echelon. The NSA was established by President Truman as the formal organisation specifically responsible for extracting information from foreign communications.(2)

Echelon's collaborators - the members of the UK-USA club - collect data off the telecommunications networks, and use decryption and analysis software provided by the NSA to determine the actual content. The content is analysed and what is deemed 'special' is passed on to the NSA and possibly other collaborators.

There is no official confirmation that Echelon exists. However, one of the reasons Echelon hasn't been dismissed completely as another conspiracy theory is probably because the attention the European Parliament has given it. In the report, An Appraisal of the Technologies of Political Control, concern was expressed about Echelon giving the NSA access to intercept all European telecommunications(3). Since its publication, a significant number of major media outlets have covered the issue.

In May 1999, Channel Nine's Sunday(4) program featured a story on Echelon, in which the Australian brother, the Defence Signals Directorate, became the first to publicly admit participation in the UK-USA alliance. Australia operates special intelligence facilities from Geraldton in Western Australia, and from Shoal Bay in the Northern Territory. No doubt other facilities such as Pine Gap also assist when required.

So, what impact could Echelon have on our lives and the society we live in?

"The telescreen received and transmitted simultaneously."(5)

On the internet, you can send an email and browse web pages simultaneously. It works like the telescreens in George Orwell's "1984" which was first published 50 years ago. But with your computer, more than pictures and sounds get received and transmitted and it all happens completely transparently. We often forget that our computers are connected to an ever expanding internet grid. It is essential that we understand our working and living environment. The computer is downloading and uploading data to the internet constantly and we need to be aware of this - and like in Orwell's 1984 - there is "no way of knowing whether you were being watched at any given moment".(6)

Michel Foucault's Discipline and Punish describes how "disciplinary power"(7) can be everywhere yet operate discreetly. He maps Bentham's Panopticon architecture for prisons on western society. The panopticon functions by producing in the inmate or the citizen "a state of conscious and permanent visibility that assures the automatic functioning of power"(8). The ideas behind the panopticon and Foucoult's writings are very useful for us to understand surveillance systems like Echelon and their intentions.

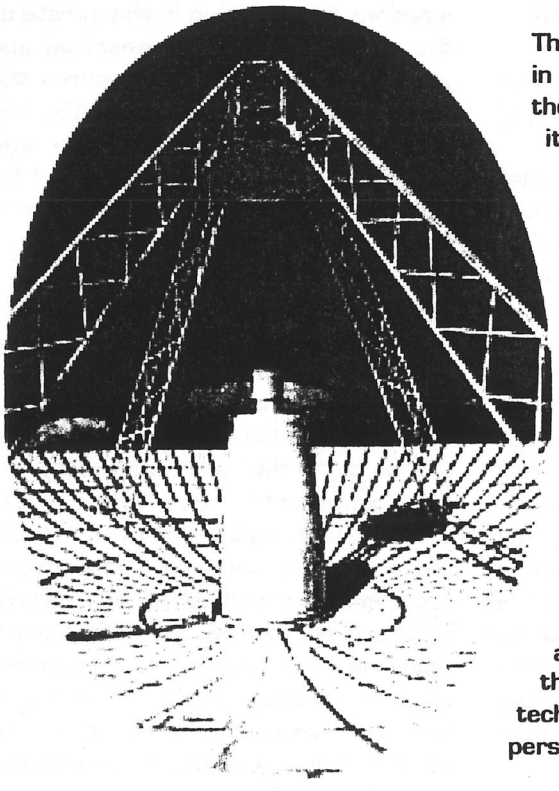
We are definitely living in a society that is more surveilled than ever before. Security cameras watch us walking the streets, doing the shopping and banking. Our cars are becoming electronically tagged to 'assist' with our safety and allow convenient toll collection. We can even be physically located by our mobile phones. In our computers, the microprocessors are embedded with a serial number, and soon we will carry 'smart' money which will be capable of recording all our transactions. The more technology we use and carry on us - the easier we become objects of surveillance and subjects of control.

ECHELON

We are told the innocent should have nothing to fear. After all, the surveillance is being carried out by intelligence agencies established by the government to protect its people and its interests from terrorism and foreign powers. But if we oppose the views of the government or the actions of the corporation are we still innocent? The privacy rights of 'innocent' US citizens have recently created tension between the NSA and the United States Congress. In the United States Bill of Rights, Amendment IV states:
"The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized." (9)

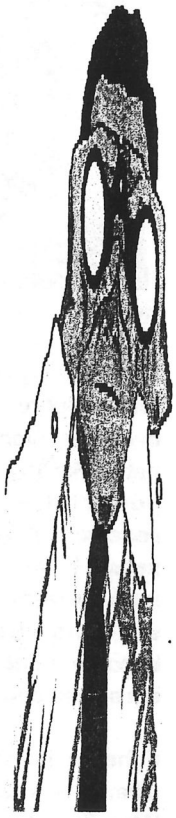
Congress requested from the NSA documents that outline the standards used to protect US citizens from Echelon but the NSA refused to(10). At the time of writing, it is unknown what the final outcome of this standoff is, however attempts in the past by the US Congress to document the activities of 'Big Brother' have always been contained.

In Australia, the latest threats to the cyber medium come from the Broadcast Services Amendment (Online Services) Bill 1999(11) which aims to regulate the content that can be placed on and accessed from the internet. The main reason given for these amendments is to "protect Australian citizens, especially children, from illegal and highly offensive material"(12). But like the European Parliament, we should consider telecommunications and the internet in terms of technologies of political control. Through this perspective, we may be able to see the real reason for internet regulation and the role telecommunications surveillance plays.



Strong encryption of information may offer resistance to Echelon. Encryption alters the information so that only persons with the decryption code can actually understand the information. Even if Echelon can intercept the message, the contents of the message would not be understood. In 1993, concern over this prompted the US Government to introduce the clipper chip which would provide strong communicaions encryption for law abiding citizens while preserving "the ability of federal, state and local law enforcement agencies to intercept lawfully the phone conversations of criminals"(13). The clipper chip didn't get off the ground but there are regular attempts by the US to resist the development and exportation of strong encryption. The use of strong encryption could be considered by law enforcement agencies as an indication of illegal acts.

There isn't a strong culture of dissent in our society. Perhaps this is because there is little to fight against or perhaps it is because we are already highly disciplined by systems of control such as Echelon. The views expressed by the government authority that surveillance is needed to deter crime and terrorism is only partially true. The ease of accessibility by ordinary people to telecommunications technologies such as the internet and to strong unsanctioned encryption software is putting political control at risk. The only way to reduce this risk is to have effective integrated surveill-ance systems like Echelon and to implement rules, regulations and codes of practice that will reduce the effectiveness of telecommunication technologies in the hands of the ordinary person.

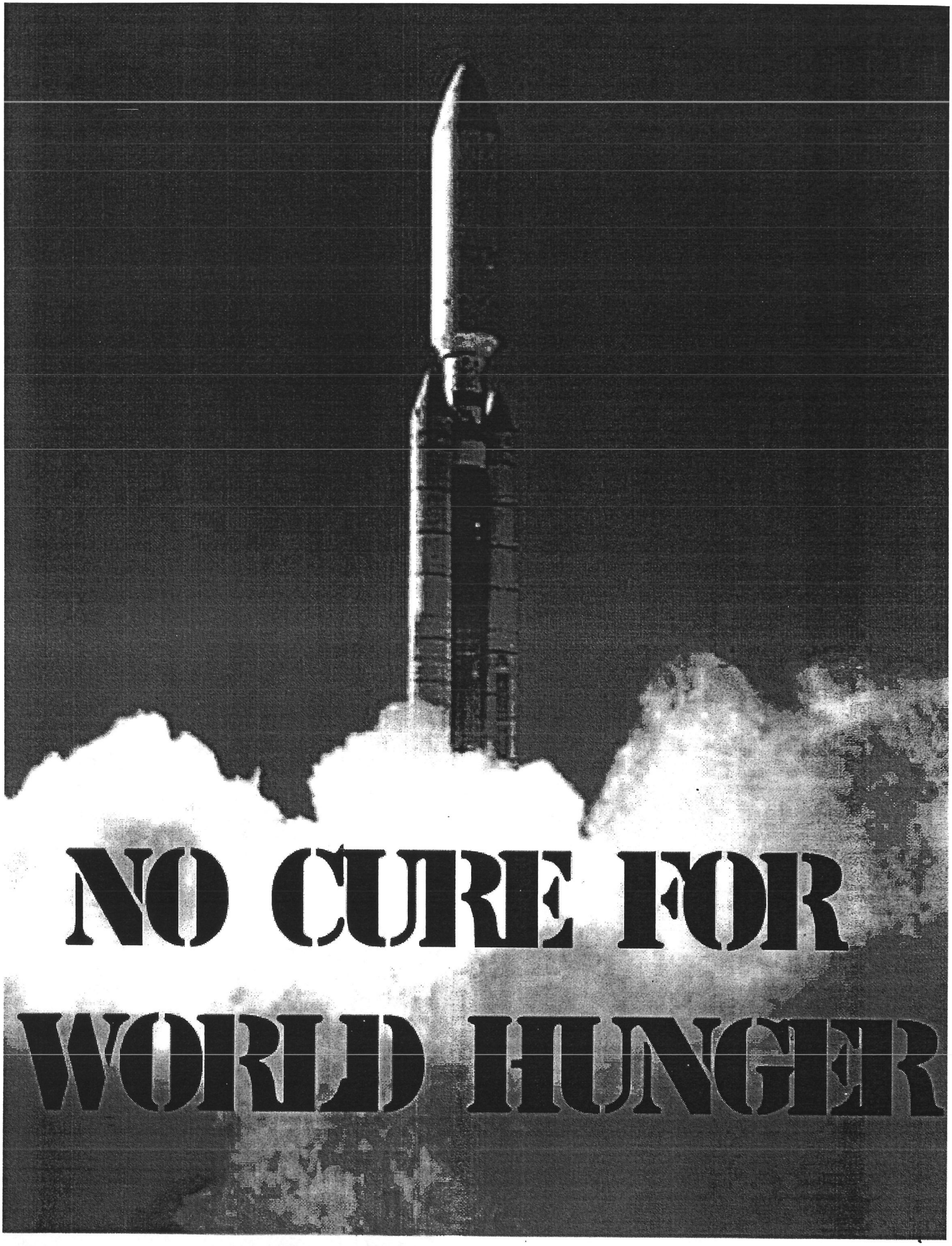


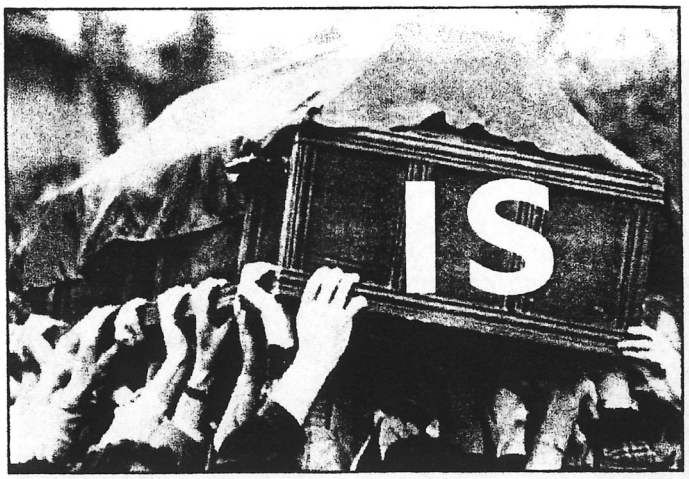
There is an urgent need to defend our access to freedom of expression and to feel safe and secure in our mediums of communication which are effectively our mediums of existence. We need to understand Echelon as an integrated system, which is linked to government and corporate power. However, we must not become paranoid and be shifted into a mode of self-censorship and monoculture predictability. The right to communicate, to exchange ideas and to critique the 'system' is under threat. We need to develop a stronger understanding of threats and the methods of control by governments and corporations to break the illusion that we increasingly live under.

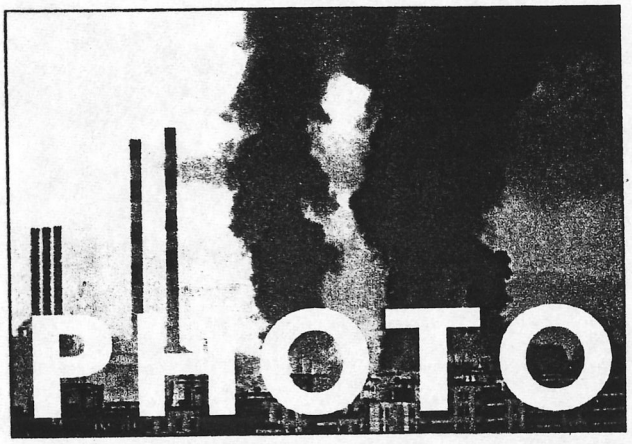
Footnotes:

1. Nicky Hager, Exposing the Global Surveillance System, Covert Action Quartely, 1998, http://jya.com/echelon.htm
2. President Truman Memorandum, Communications Intelligence Activities, US Government, Oct 24 1952, http://www.nsa.gov/docs/efoia/released/truman.html
3. Steve Wright, Omega Foundation, An Appraisal of Technologies for Political Control, European Parliament, January 6, 1998, http://cryptome.org/stoa-atpc.htm
4. Sunday
5. George Orwell, 1984, Penguin Books, 1977, p6
6. George Orwell, 1984, Penguin Books, 1977, p6
7. Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish, Penguin Books, 1979, p177
8. Michel Foucault, Discipline and Punish, Penguin Books, 1979, p201
9. The Constituion of the United States, Amendment IV, The Bill of Rights, http://www.usia.gov/usa/infousa/facts/aboutusa/billeng.htm
10. Daniel Verton, Efforts made to prevent privacy abuses against US citizens, CNN Interactive, June 7 1999
11. The Senate, Parliament of the Commonwealth of Australia, Broadcasting Services Amendment (Online Services) Bill 1999, May 26, 1999, http://www.ozemail.com/~mbarker/amended.html
12. Richard Alston, Alton concerned by threats to Interent protections, Media Release, Department of Communications and the Arts, April 19 1999
13. Press Secretary, Government Announcement of the Clipper Chip, The White House, April 16 1993, http://stasi.bradley.edu/privacy/clipper_announce.html

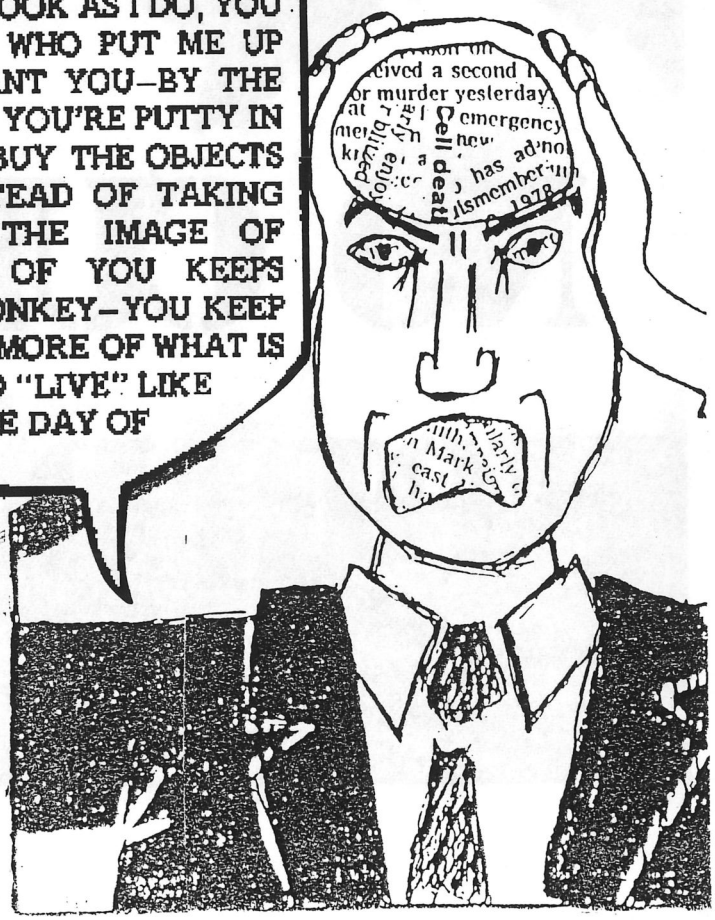
see http://antimedia.net/echelon/ for more links


NO CURE FOR
WORLD HUNGER





HELLO, MEN! I'M A PICTURE OF A WOMAN THAT DOESN'T EXIST. BUT MY BODY CORRESPONDS TO A STEREOTYPE YOU HAVE BEEN CONDITIONED TO DESIRE. SINCE YOUR WIFE OR GIRL FRIEND IS UNLIKELY TO LOOK AS I DO, YOU ARE NATURALLY FRUSTRATED. THE PEOPLE WHO PUT ME UP HERE HAVE GOT YOU JUST WHERE THEY WANT YOU–BY THE BALLS. WITH YOUR "MANHOOD" CHALLENGED, YOU'RE PUTTY IN THEIR HANDS. THEY CAN CONVINCE YOU TO BUY THE OBJECTS THEY'VE MADE YOU THINK YOU NEED, INSTEAD OF TAKING WHAT YOU REALLY WANT. AND SINCE THE IMAGE OF SATISFACTION THEY HOLD UP IN FRONT OF YOU KEEPS RECEDING–LIKE A CARROT IN FRONT OF A DONKEY–YOU KEEP ENDLESSLY WORKING TO PAY FOR MORE AND MORE OF WHAT IS REALLY YOURS ALREADY. IF YOU CONTINUE TO "LIVE" LIKE THIS, YOU WON'T BE SATISFIED TILL THE DAY OF YOUR DEATH. SUCKER.



The US group Fairness and Acuracy in Reporting (FAIR) argues in the June 2 article "What reporters knew about Kosovo talks - but didn't tell" that "the US deliberately set out to thwart the Rambouillet peace talks in France in order to provide a 'trigger' for NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia." And also that "correspondents from major American news organisations repeatedly knew about this plan to stymie the Kosovo peace talks, but did not inform their readers or viewers."

THE PIES THE LIMIT

Eight women on camels pied Chuck Foldenauer, head of US-based General Atomics who operates a uranium mine in Southern Australia. The women who make up the Aboriginal-led organization Humps not Dumps found time in the course of their 621 mile (1000 kilometer) trek through the Australian desert to stop and hurl a pie at Foldenauer's face. Unconfirmed reports maintain that Mr. Foldenauer was "secretly disappointed" to taste that the rebel pie "contained not even a smidge of meringue."

The incident marks yet another tasty victory for what can loosely be called the biotic baking movement, whose ingredients include Actiegroep T.A.A.R.T., Entartistes, Pastissiers sans Frontieres (Bakers without Borders), and the many different cells of the Biotic Baking Brigade (BBB) itself. In general, the movement targets corporate and international proponents of free trade and globalization, and recently inducted former IMF chief Michel Camdessus into its Hall of Infamy.

On February 13, 2000, as Mr. Camdessus approached the lectern to give his final speech as IMF chief, Robert Naiman snuck up through "massive security curtain," and smashed the pie in Camdessus' face with a cry of "Happy Birthday!" On February 1, a UK-Indonesian meeting was pummeled with pastry-treats, as 25 demonstrators wearing West-Paupan tribal masks blockaded the delegates' hotel and let the pies fly. For about an hour, piers unleashed their fury, hurling custard delicacies upon the delegates, security, and demonstrators alike. An estimated 10-15 delegates were hit, though no one received a full-on pie in the face.

As BBB reports, there have been several top capitalists with sticky faces recently. WTO Director General Renato Ruggiero; Bill Gates, CEO of US-based Microsoft; Robert Shapiro, CEO of US-based Monsanto; and the monetarist economist Milton Friedman have all been targets of the American branch of the Biotic Baking Brigade.

As 'Special Agent Apple' of the BBB declared, from somewhere in the mountains of North Western California,

"The technocrats who dominate industrial society may call us radical and unrealistic, but the dream of a bio-diverse future is one for which we will fight until the day we pie."

Kim Beazley got pied on June 18 after speaking at Shell as part of the J18 global carnival against capitalism.

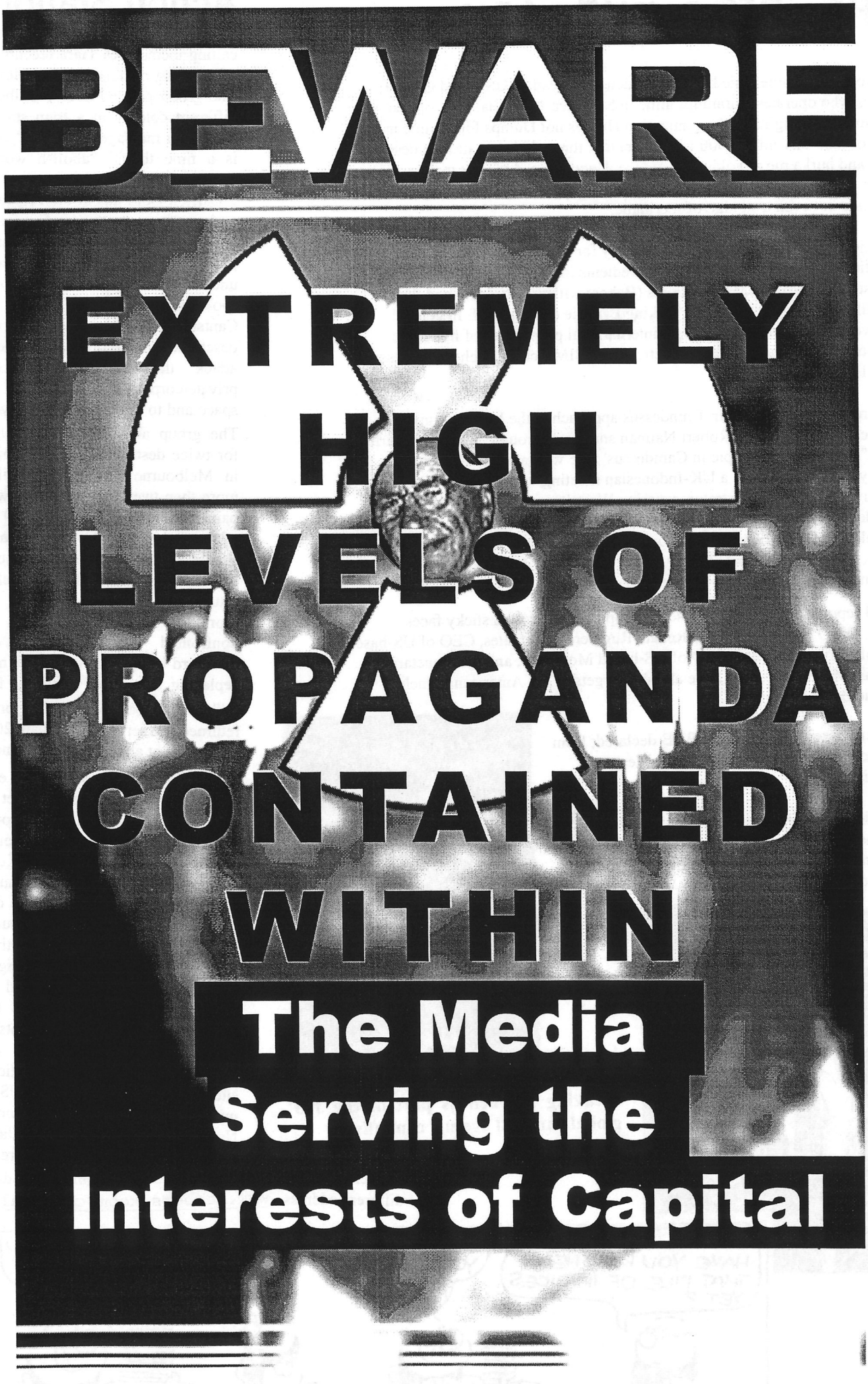
Action Stations

A group of cultural agent provocateurs calling themselves Tiara recently pulled off a string of heists within Melbourne. The group painted over 8 billboards in different colours at a train station and pasted up messages such as "your boss is a time thief," "abolish work" and "you can't buy this".

7 Carlton Cold ads at the Prahran skate park, inviting customers to consume at a nearby art-mart, were similarly painted over and reclaimed. An unelected and self-appointed spokesperson for the group, Monty Cantsin, in a moment or rare ranting, described the action as a means to attack the dominant ideology of private/corporate control of public space and to inject art into everyday life

The group also claimed responsibility for twice destroying the Nike billboard in Melbourne's CBD. The billboard, more then twenty metres high, was first paint bombed on November 30 as part of the global day of protests against the World Trade Organisation. The culprits, not feeling their job was sufficient, returned a week later early in the morning to finish it only to be confronted with the sight of the billboard being removed and a new one replacing it. After waiting for the billboard to be finished they promptly returned to serve more than 20 paint filled eggs at a giant Shane Warne.

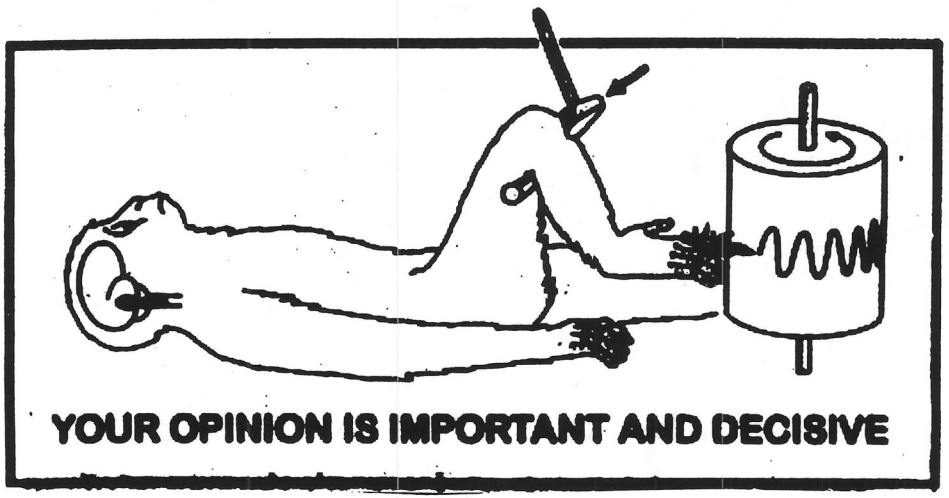
During the '99 Victorian election campaign, in which Jeff Kennet set up his www.jeff.com.au, a group of malcontents and subverters set up a parody website www.RealJeff.com in an effort to expose Jeff's nauseating antics. The site included a true or false quiz including statements such as: "Jeff's favourite nocturnal activity in Sydney is to butter up high-class hookers with cocaine and Dom Perignion – later charged to the taxpayer as entertaining clients". The site also feature audio clips of Jeff confirming his love of corruption. The site, registered in the US, was mysteriously shut down after four days. Numerous attempts to contact the internet company met with no response. RealJeff was able to be re-launched again within days at a different address. www.members.xoom.com/realjeff


BEWARE
EXTREMELY HIGH LEVELS OF PROPAGANDA CONTAINED WITHIN
The Media Serving the Interests of Capital

Why the Media pushes global capital.

Think you're not getting told the whole story? You'd be pretty right. The media have a direct interest in maintaining the present system of work, consumption, inequality and profit for a few.

Media owners are directly and intricately linked to it. People such as Rupert Murdoch and Kerry Packer make their money from selling audiences to advertisers. The more people watching, particularly viewers with a high level of spending power, the greater the advertising rates and the greater the profits. They have a distinct interest in pushing consumer capitalism in their media. They make their money helping to advertise a style of life that is destroying the ecology of the planet and that binds people to the work-place in the search of fulfilling their desires through a product.



The media also serve to disguise the impact we are having, channelling concern for the environment into unthreatening causes like saving fluffy individual species, never holding responsible the economic system that threatened them in the first place. Consumer Capitalism is in complete contradiction to a sustainable environment.

The mass media is made up of corporations like all others. Their motive is profit, not providing information, and a society can hardly be democratic when there is a lack of free flow of information. The media's need to make money and provide information is often in contradiction. The media gets the majority of its capital from advertisers, obviously this means the paper can't say all the things it might need to about certain corporations because it will lose profits. Likewise it certainly isn't going to criticise capitalism. No corporation is going to contribute to its own demise.

This leaves many of those worse effected by the global economy without a voice, because to discover the cause of their poverty or devastation means pointing the finger at the economic system that produce those conditions. These do not make for good stories, a good story being one that puts the viewer in a "buying mood." Those without spending power become still more powerless.

Censorship is alive and well in the late 20th century but it comes under the guise of self-censorship. Like wise propaganda is well and strong. To quote Aldous Huxely

"The greatest triumphs of propaganda have been accomplished, not by doing something, but by refraining from doing. Great is the truth, but still greater, from a practical point of view, is silence about truth."

Thus we declare the capitalist mass media that limits the realm of debate and pushes consumerism, to be in complete opposition to any notion of a sustainable ecology or an effective democracy, and still further in opposition to a society where poverty is alleviated and desire is fulfilled, where people are not left constantly unsatisfied in order for them to continue their hope for satisfaction through the purchase of commodities.

We make a call thus to any journalist with a credible and honest bone left in their body to do something useful. To be what journalists were always supposed to be, defenders of the public and democracy, not the weapons of injustice as most are.

HO HO... HOLY FUCK My home is melting!

Santa says: Hey hey ho ho
this Capitalist shit has got to go

Hey Kids! Help out Santa for a change. The North Pole is going to be an ice-cube if people don't stop shopping so damn much!

Most toys are crap. They are made to fall apart so your parents have to buy more, and go to work everyday for the Boss.

All these dumb gadgets create waste and use so much energy the whole Earth is heating up and being polluted.

Most Santas aren't even real! They're just actors that greedy companies get to sell rubbish and make money.

The best thing about Christmas is that you don't have to go to work. But if you didn't buy so much rubbish, and your parents sacked their boss, they'd hardly have to work at all!

Hey kids! Act NOW! Stink bomb the shopping centre and make your own presents! Ask your parents about "non-alienated labour" and "ecological destruction." Don't take shit!

RealSanta2000@yahoo.com

Critique of the Listener

Hakim Bey

To speak too much and not be heard - that's sickening enough. But to acquire listeners - that could be worse. Listeners think that to listen suffices - as if their true desire were to hear with someone else's ears, see thru someone else's eyes, feel with someone else's skin .

The crude truth is perhaps that texts can only change reality when they inspire readers to see and act, rather than merely see. Scripture once did this - but Scripture has become an idol. To see thru its eyes would be to possess (in the Voodoo sense) a statue - or a corpse.

We might like to purge our radio of anything which lacks at least the chance of precipitating that difference. Just as there exist books which have inspired earthshaking crimes, we would like to broadcast texts which cause hearers to seize (or at least make a grab for) the happiness God denies us. Exhortations to hijack reality. But even more we would like to purge our lives of everything which obstructs or delays us from setting out - not to sell guns & slaves in Abyssinia - not to be either robbers or cops - not to escape the world or to rule it - but to open ourselves to difference.

I share with the most reactionary moralists the presumption that art can really affect reality in this way, & I despise the liberals who say all art should be permitted because - after all - it's only art. Thus I've taken to the practice of those categories of writing & radio most hated by conservatives - pornography & agitprop - in the hope of stirring up trouble for my readers/hearers & myself. But I accuse myself of ineffectualism, even futility. Not enough has changed. Perhaps nothing has changed.

Enlightenment is all we have, & even that we've had to rip from the grasp of corrupt gurus & bumbling suicidal intellectuals. As for our art - what have we accomplished, other than to spill our blood for the ghostworld of fashionable ideas & images?

Already some time ago we placed all our bets on the irruption of the marvelous into everyday life - won a few, then lost heavily.

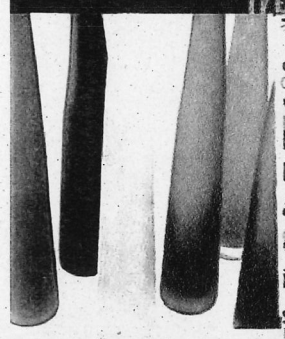
Can we retrain ourselves at this late date to become Finders of hidden treasure? And by what technique, seeing that it is precisely technique which has betrayed us? Derrangement of the senses, insurrection, piety, poetry?

Finally, however, it will become necessary to leave this city which hovers immobile on the edge of a sterile twilight, like Hamelin after all the children were lured away. Perhaps other cities exist, occupying the same space & time, but different. And perhaps there exist jungles where mere enlightenment is outshadowed by the black light of jaguars. I have no idea - & I'm terrified.

consumer society multiplies needs because it can fulfill none

An administered survival kit in place of the realization of desire....

Currently, world-wide military spending is over $100 million every hour, while every hour, over 1500 people, mostly innocent children, die from lack of basic needs. Citizens of many nations are struggling to survive, while their governments are still committed to a military-based economy. Natural ecosystems essential for sustaining life have been, and continue to be, dangerously depleted.



The fundamental cause of the environmental problem is the high level of production and consumption of our affluent, industrial, consumer society

ave to return large surpluses to verheads are lower. And some of assed on to you in the form of n fact, with careful management, cable to your accounts could be atutory fees — those we are he State. We charge no fees on sh withdrawals. For **REDICARD** ctions, fees cut in once you ight (8) transactions per month. g the current amount of any pplicable is available on request.

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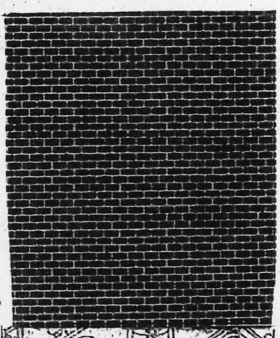
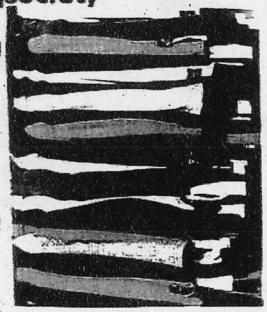
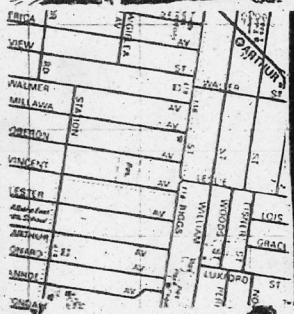
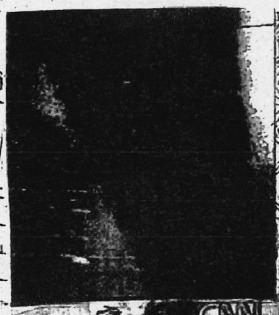


Anything can be chosen except the realm in which choice is possible

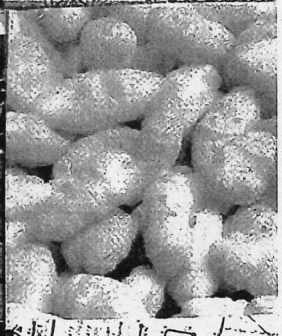


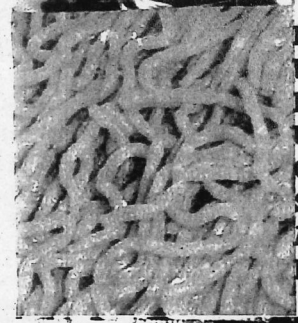




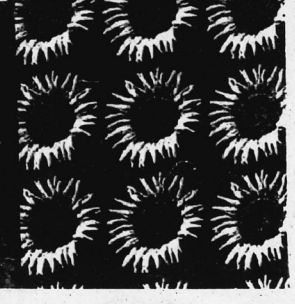
OPLE ARE LIVING IN CHRONIC (stated the world 97 w watch inst)
NOURISHED (ecogrowth+inequity94)
THER 40 000 CHILDREN STARVE very 2 seconds (worldvison98)

ON LESS THAN $1 A DAY (wbank95)
PLE LIVE IN LIFE THREATENING ore than 1 in 5 people (planaustnter96)
E
-$800 BILLION A YEAR (stated w 97)
BILLION A YEAR (defence budget 95 96)
/96 (interpeace research inst oslo norway)
ARE CIVILIANS (washpost mss mmhr)





NO ONE CAN SAY WHAT WOULD RESULT FROM UNLEASHING THE CREATIVE POWER STOLEN BY WORK ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN



here and only here, in none of these places is it ok to build a midday bonfire and incite the neighbours to dance